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FEATURE!

**TARANTULA IS BACK...WITH A
VENGEANCE!**

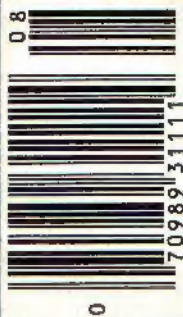
ALL NEW!
60¢

NO. 24
AUG.



ROY THOMAS,
JERRY ORDWAY
and MIKE
MACHLAN
WEAVE A
WEB OF
WONDERMENT!

ALL-STAR SQUADRON



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C A R T R I D G E



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WINTER, 1942--A WORLD AT WAR! AND AGAINST THE FORCES OF AXIS DARKNESS, THE MIGHTIEST HEROES OF EARTH-TWO HAVE Banded TOGETHER, UNDER DIRECT ORDERS OF THE PRESIDENT, AS THE...

ALL-STAR SQUADRON

THE MAN WHO'LL KNOW TOO MUCH!

THE BATMAN--A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE FIGHTING A LONELY BATTLE FOR JUSTICE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL--ALREADY A FAMILIAR IF FRIGHTENING SIGHT AGAINST THE PRE-DAWN SKIES AND TOWERING ROOFTOPS OF GOTHAM CITY.

THE ONLY THING IS--THIS IS NEW YORK. THE BOROUGH CALLED QUEENS, TO BE EXACT.

THAT'S THE ADDRESS, ALL RIGHT--THE LABORATORY OF DR. ROBERT CRANE, DECEASED--

--ALSO KNOWN AS ROBOTMAN, WHO'S VERY MUCH ALIVE!

BUT WHY IS IT SO DARK--SO FOREBODING--LIKE A COILED TRAP WAITING TO BE SPRUNG??

"This was the worst week of the war... the worst week of the century....
"Now, as in 1864, the fate of the nation was in the balance."
--TIME MAGAZINE, for FEB. 23, 1942.

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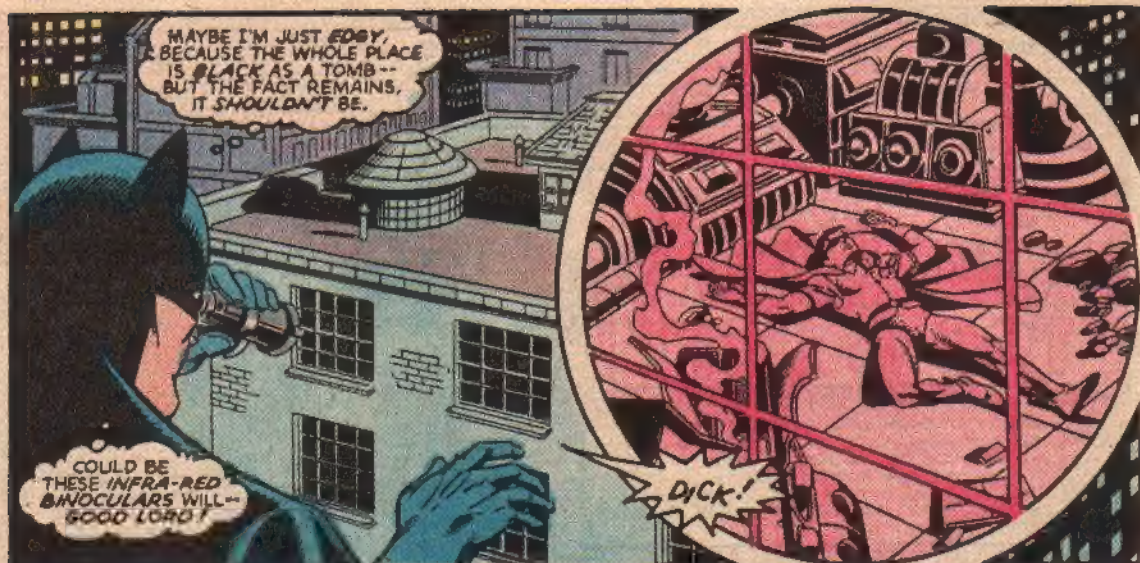
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MIKE MACHLAN
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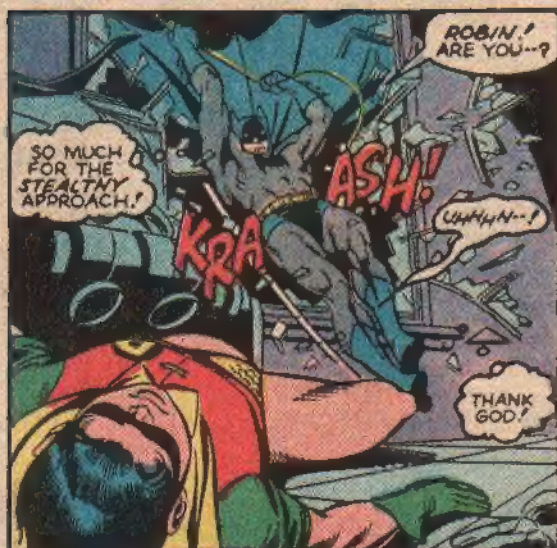
A Warner Communications Company



MAYBE I'M JUST EDDY,
BECAUSE THE WHOLE PLACE
IS BLACK AS A TOMB--
BUT THE FACT REMAINS,
IT SHOULDN'T BE.

COULD BE
THESE INFRA-RED
BINOCULARS WILL--
GOOD LORD!

DICK!



SO MUCH
FOR THE
STEALTHY
APPROACH!

ROBIN!
ARE YOU--?

KRA

ASH!

WHY--?

THANK
GOD!



YOU KNOW, SON, THIS
IS THE SECOND TIME
IN 24 HOURS YOU'VE
GOTTEN INTO A GUM
ON YOUR OWN.

MAYBE FROM NOW
ON, YOU'D BETTER--

BATMAN--
B-BEHIND
YOU--!

I SEE
THEM--
BUT WHAT
ARE THEY??



WHATEVER THEY ARE-- I
TAKE IT ALL BACK, ROBIN.

ANYBODY WHO CAN
WAKE UP AND
SAVE ME FROM GET-
TING AMBUSHED
IN THE SAME BREATH
CAN TAKE CARE
OF HIMSELF.

GNGG

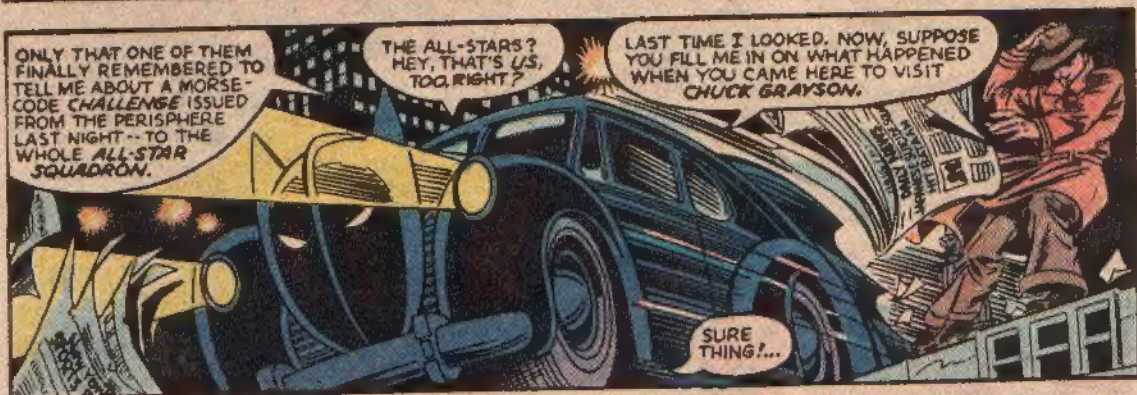
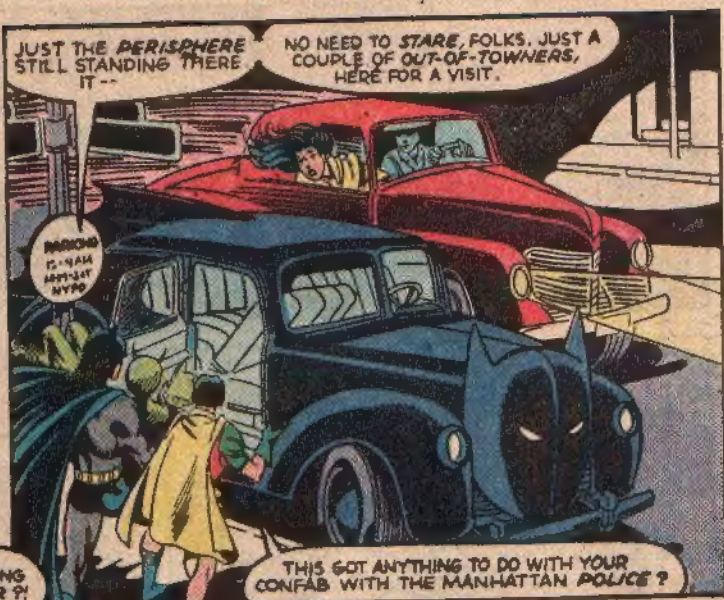
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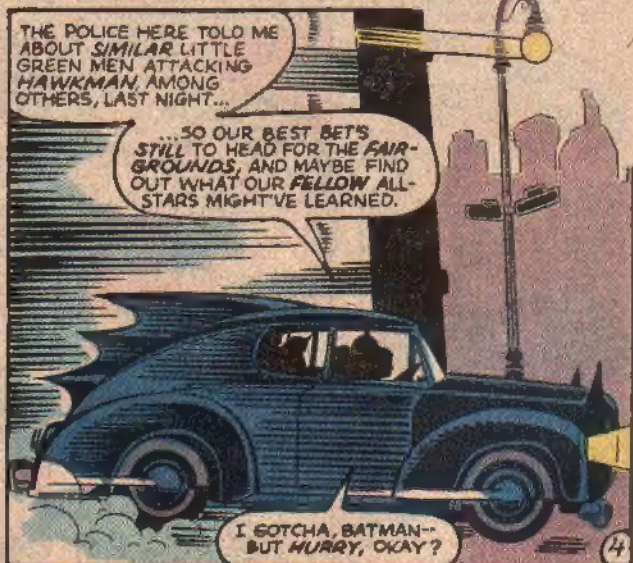
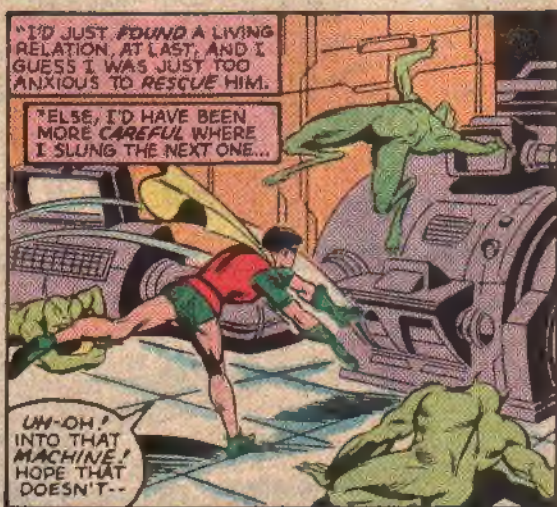
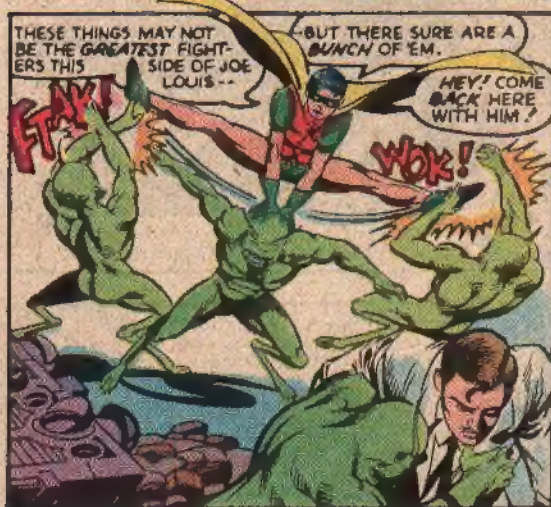


NASTY-LOOKING DEVILS,
THOUGH-- LIKE WALKING
GREEN BADGERS.

AND THEY DON'T SEEM
TO TALK-- ONLY GRUNT.

ANYWAY, THE
BATMANS
GOT 'EM.







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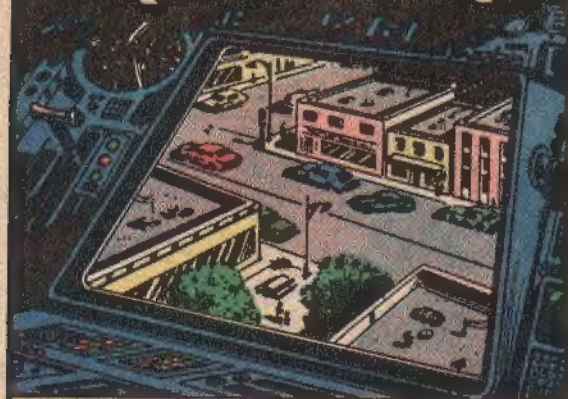
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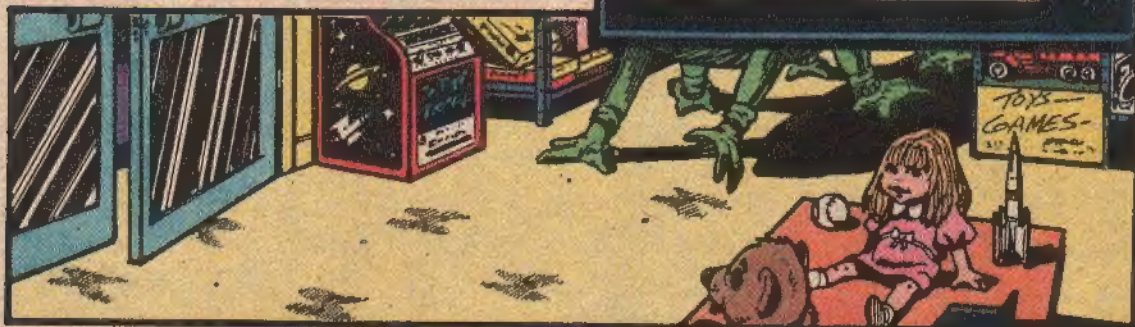
STAR FRONTIERS



...FROM THE VERY CENTER OF THE GREAT SPIRAL GALAXY... ON A QUEST WITH BUT ONE INTENTION...



... TO A PLANET FORBIDDEN, DRIVEN BY A FORCE **UNSTOPPABLE...**



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SOMEWHERE:

GOTTA HAND IT TO YA, ULTRA-- THAT "HAMMER OF THOR" GIZMO YOU SCROUNGED UP IS THE GREATEST THING SINCE YOU GAVE ME MY ELECTRICAL POWERS.

ANYTHING THAT CAN DRAIN SUPERMAN OF MOST OF HIS STRENGTH, WITH ENOUGH LEFT OVER TO TAKE CARE OF ROBOTMAN AND THAT FIREBRAND DAME--

IT WAS THE POWERSTONE IMBEDDED IN MY FOREHEAD WHICH STOLE SUPERMAN'S POWERS, DEATHBOLT; IN HIS CASE, THE HAMMER IS MERELY INSURANCE.

AND MOVE THAT HAND-- IF YOU PLAN ON USING IT IN THE FUTURE!

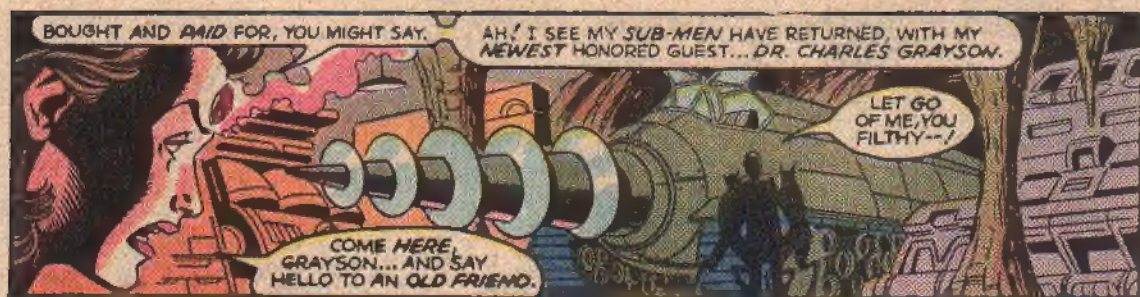
FOR THE LAST TIME ULTRA, I'M BEGGING YOU-- STOP THIS MADNESS!

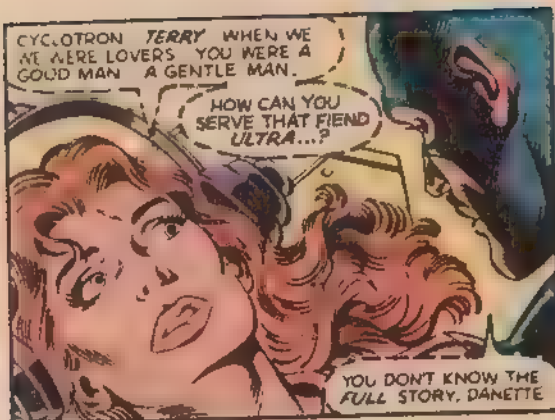
I-- I'VE ALREADY CAUSED ONE DEATH GETTING THE HAMMER FOR YOU.

I DON'T KNOW-- IF I'M UP TO ANY MORE.

CAN... THE ALIBIS... CYCLOTRON. YOU'RE IN THIS... UP TO YOUR ATOMIC SYMBOL.

SAVE YOUR BREATH... ROBOTMAN. HE'S JUST... ONE MORE EXTRA-POWERED FLUNKY... TO THE ULTRA-HUMANITE...!

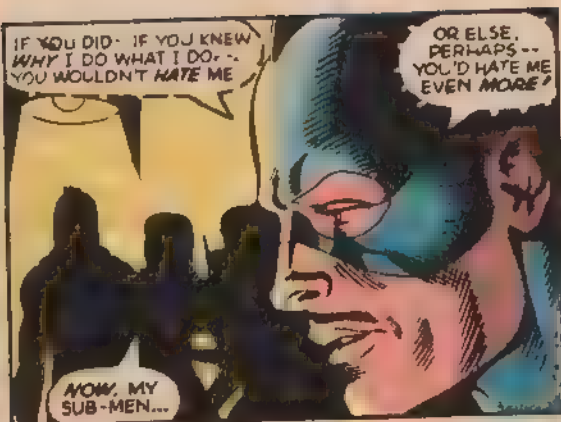




CYCLOTRON TERRY WHEN WE WERE LOVERS YOU WERE A GOOD MAN A GENTLE MAN.

HOW CAN YOU SERVE THAT FIEND ULTRA...?

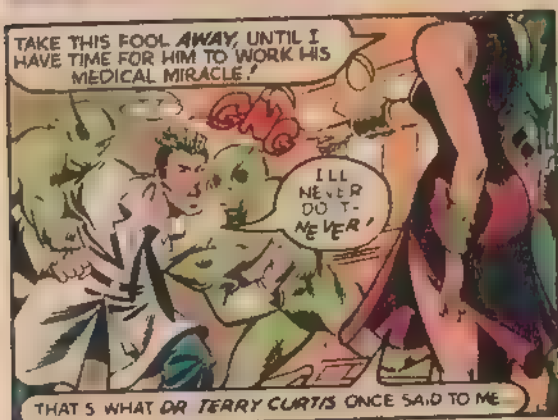
YOU DON'T KNOW THE FULL STORY, DANETTE



IF YOU DID- IF YOU KNEW WHY I DO WHAT I DO... YOU WOULDN'T HATE ME

OR ELSE, PERHAPS... YOU'D HATE ME EVEN MORE!

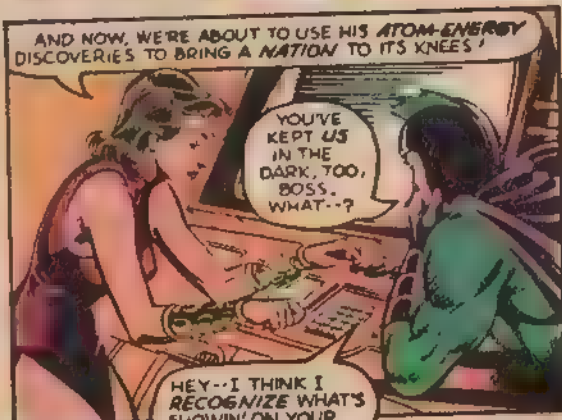
NOW, MY SUB-MEN...



TAKE THIS FOOL AWAY, UNTIL I HAVE TIME FOR HIM TO WORK HIS MEDICAL MIRACLE!

I'LL NEVER DO IT- NEVER!

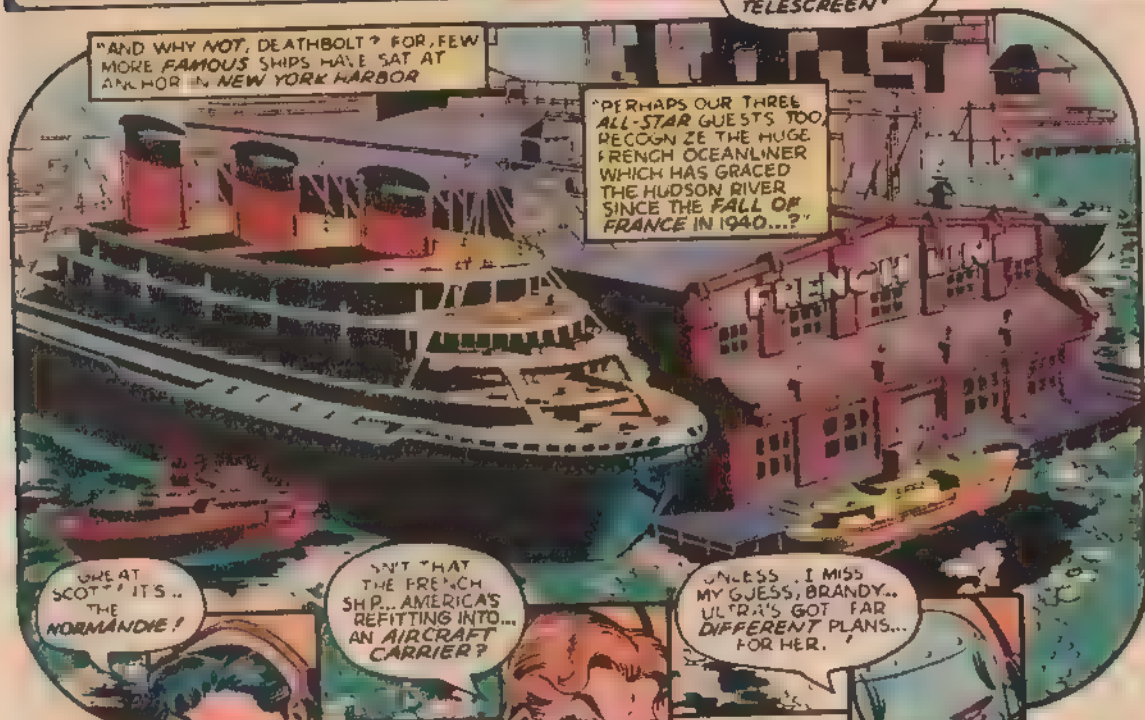
THAT'S WHAT DR TERRY CURTIS ONCE SAID TO ME



AND NOW, WE'RE ABOUT TO USE HIS ATOM-ENERGY DISCOVERIES TO BRING A NATION TO ITS KNEES!

YOU'VE KEPT US IN THE DARK, TOO, BOSS. WHAT--?

HEY--I THINK I RECOGNIZE WHAT'S SHOWIN' ON YOUR TELESCREEN!



"AND WHY NOT, DEATHBOLT? FOR FEW MORE FAMOUS SHIPS HAVE SAT AT ANCHOR IN NEW YORK HARBOR

"PERHAPS OUR THREE ALL-STAR GUESTS TOO RECOGNIZE THE HUGE FRENCH OCEANLINER WHICH HAS GRACED THE HUDSON RIVER SINCE THE FALL OF FRANCE IN 1940...?"

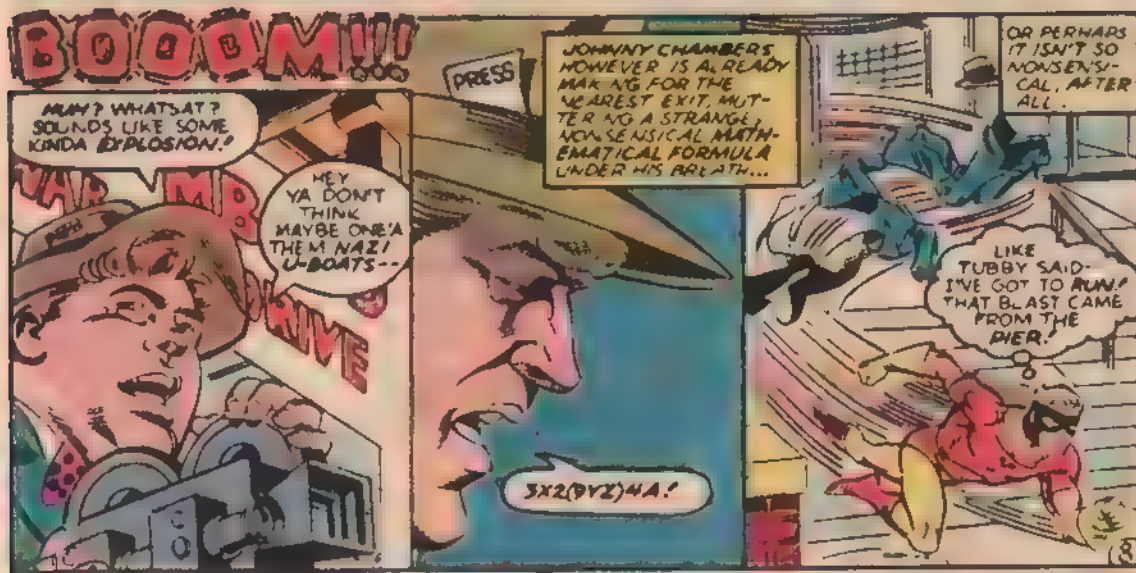
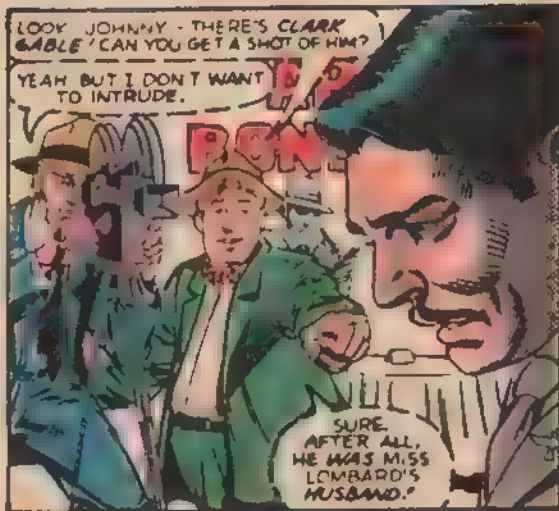
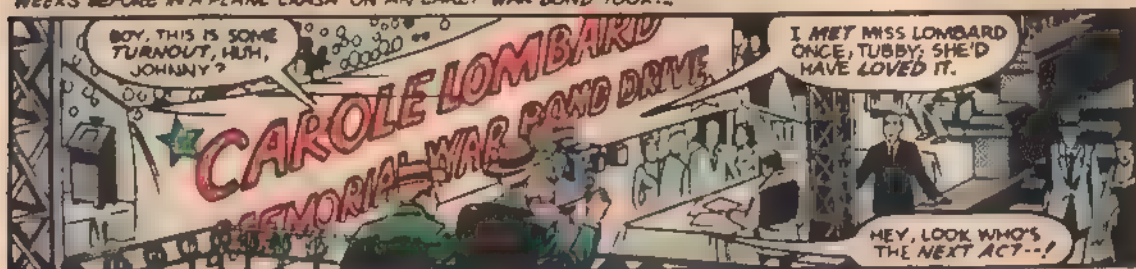
GREAT SCOT-- IT'S... THE NORMANDIE!

ISN'T THAT THE FRENCH SHIP... AMERICA'S REFITTING INTO... AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER?

UNLESS... I MISS MY GUESS, BRANDY... ULTRA'S GOT FAR DIFFERENT PLANS... FOR HER.

INDEED HE/SHE DOES!

AFTERNOON, IN MANHATTAN: A HUGE THROG HAS GATHERED TO HONOR A BELOVED MOVIE-ACTRESS, KILLED ONLY WEEKS BEFORE IN A PLANE CRASH ON AN EARLY WAR-BOND TOUR...



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

UNSCRAMBLE THE FUN AND DISCOVER WHY EVERYONE'S SCRAMBLING FOR NEW PINK LEMONADE BUBBLE YUM.

Here's a game that's as much fun to play as Bubble Yum is to chew! Just unscramble these six mixed-up words. One letter to each square. (Answers below.)

FOST

--	--	--	--	--	--

SOTHOM

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

IYUJC

--	--	--	--	--	--

MYMYU

--	--	--	--	--	--

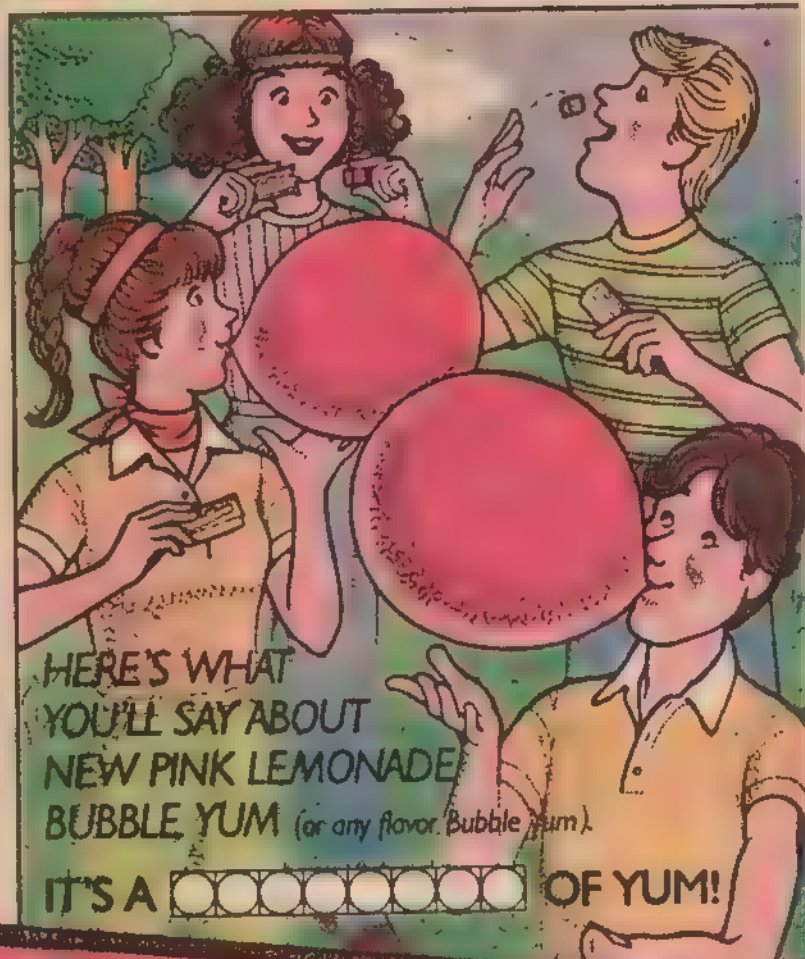
NIPK

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LUBBESB

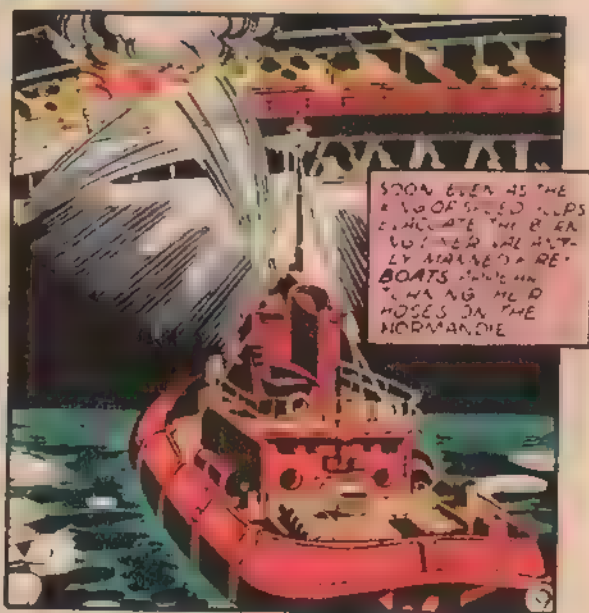
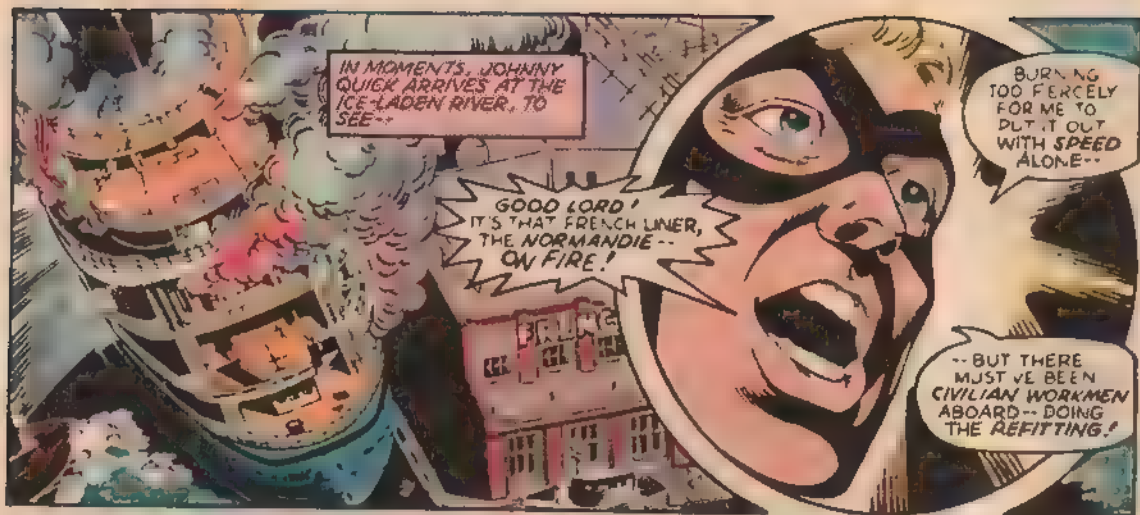
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Now unscramble the circled letters to discover the surprise word in this Bubble Yum cartoon.



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ANSWERS: SOFT, SMOOTH, JUICY, YUMMY, PINK, BUBBLES
SURPRISE WORD: IT'S A MOUTHFUL OF YUM!

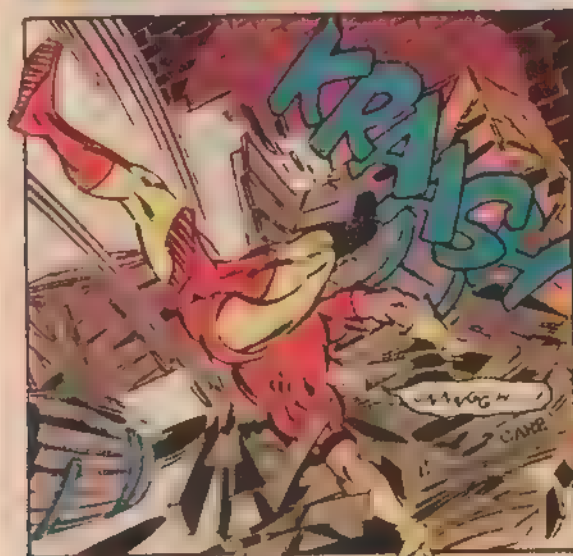


THEN SUDDENLY--

LOOK OUT!
I THINK
SHE'S GONNA
BLOW!

NOW THERE'S
A SEAMAN WITH
SHARPEYES!
BUT AT LEAST I
DON'T THINK THERE'S
ANYBODY LEFT ON
BOARD BUT
ME--

FWOOW!



OVER HERE, DOC! I
THINK THIS QUICK GUY'S
IN A BAD WAY!

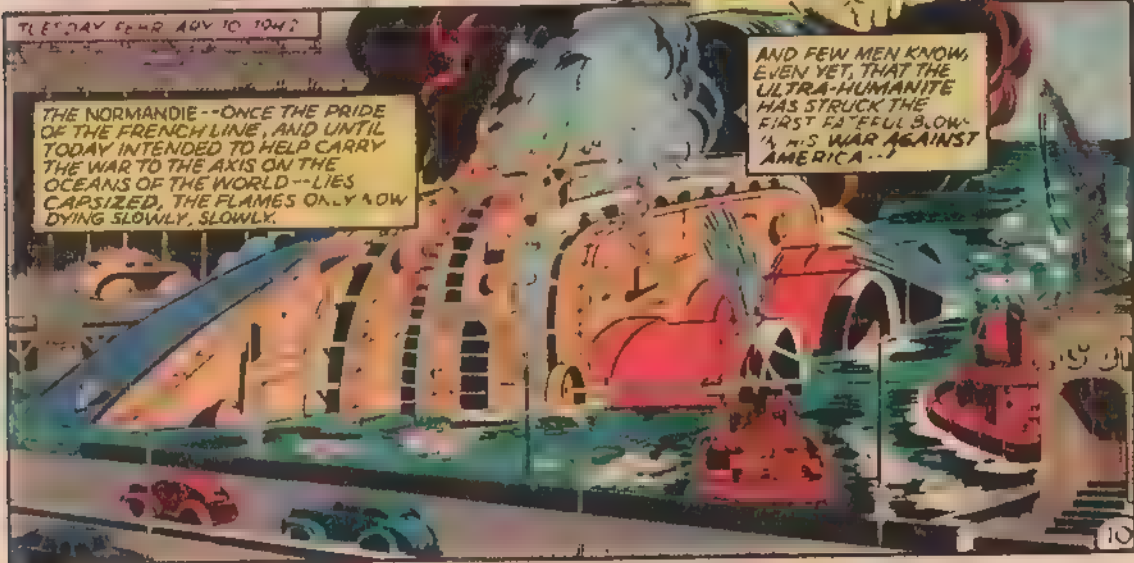
URGENT MESSAGE

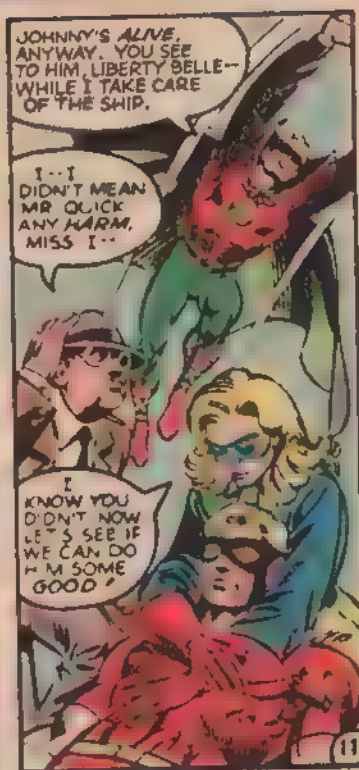
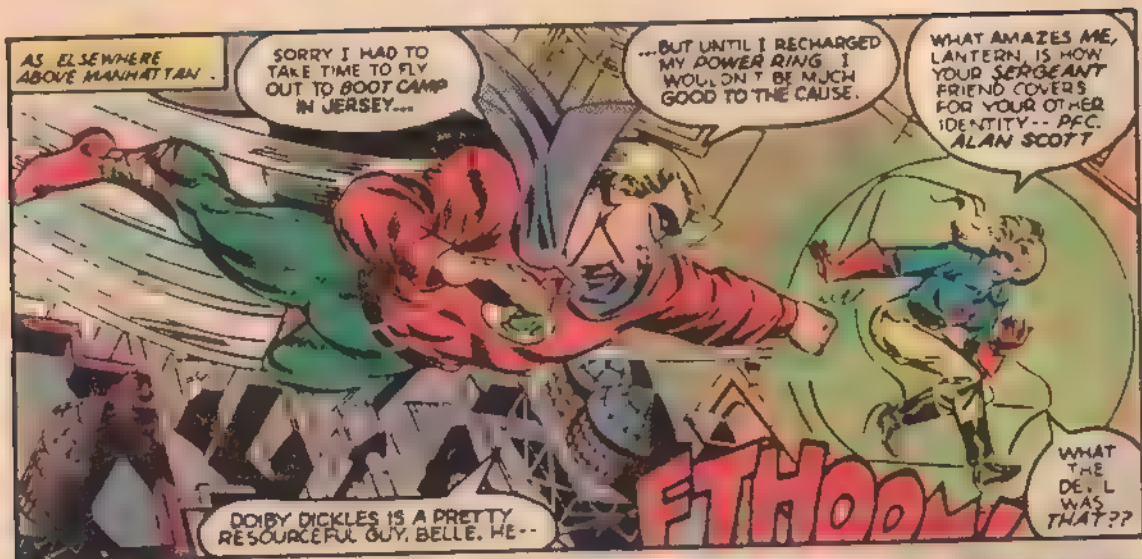


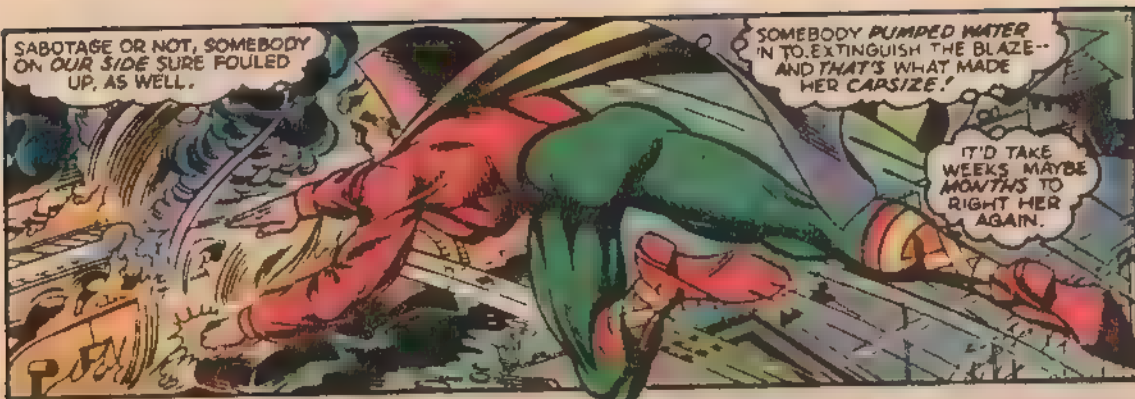
THE DAY FROM AUG 10 1942

THE NORMANDIE--ONCE THE PRIDE
OF THE FRENCH LINE, AND UNTIL
TODAY INTENDED TO HELP CARRY
THE WAR TO THE AXIS ON THE
OCEANS OF THE WORLD--LIES
CARPISSED, THE FLAMES ONLY NOW
DYING SLOWLY, SLOWLY.

AND FEW MEN KNOW,
EVEN YET, THAT THE
ULTRA-HUMANITE
HAS STRUCK THE
FIRST FATEFUL BLOW
IN HIS WAR AGAINST
AMERICA--







SABOTAGE OR NOT, SOMEBODY ON OUR SIDE SURE FOULED UP, AS WELL.

SOMEBODY PUMPED WATER IN TO EXTINGUISH THE BLAZE-- AND THAT'S WHAT MADE HER CAPSIZE!

IT'D TAKE WEEKS MAYBE MONTHS TO RIGHT HER AGAIN.



IF THIS WAS AN AXIS STUNT, THEY SURE PICKED THE RIGHT WEEK FOR IT.

ALL OF THE PHILIPPINES TAKEN EXCEPT THE BATAAN PENINSULA.

WELL, NOT MUCH I CAN DO ABOUT THE FORTUNES OF WAR AT THE MOMENT...

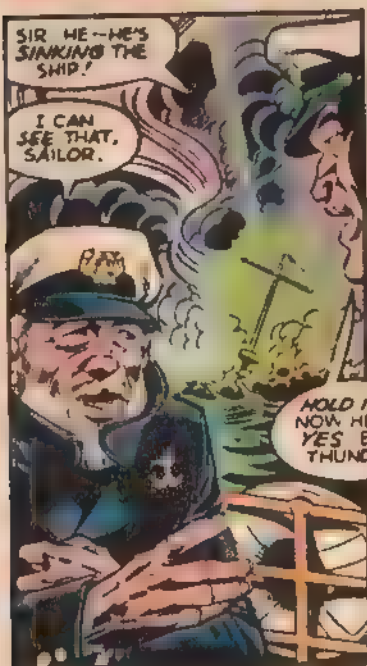
...BUT MAYBE I CAN STOP THE NORMANDIE FROM BEING A TOTAL LOSS!

IMPERIAL JAPANESE LANDINGS ON SINGAPORE, FIGHTING THE BRITISH...

NAZI U-BOATS SINKING OUR MERCHANT SHIPS WITHIN SIGHT OF OUR EAST-COAST CITIES...

HSSSSS

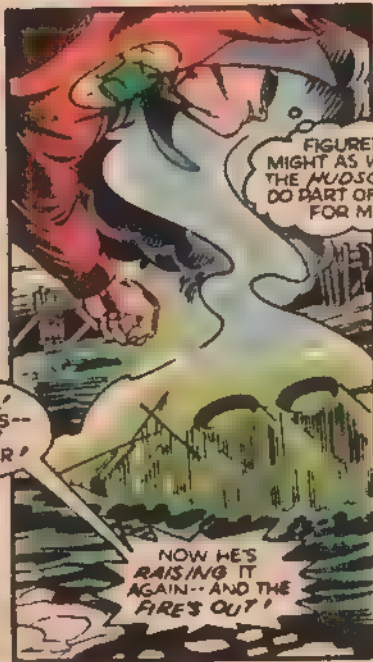
GOOD LORD! WHAT'S THAT FLYIN' FOOL DOING??



SIR HE--HE'S SINKING THE SHIP!

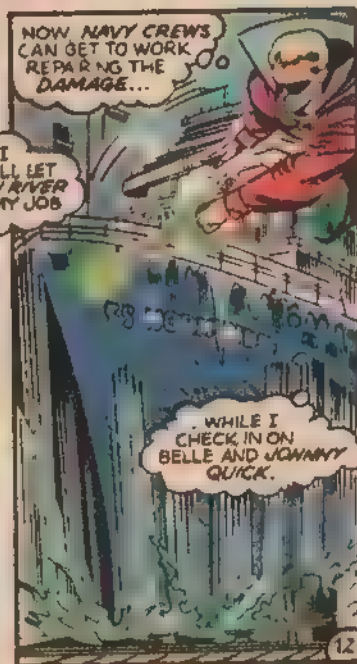
I CAN SEE THAT, SAILOR.

HOLD IT! NOW HE'S-- YES BY THUNDER!



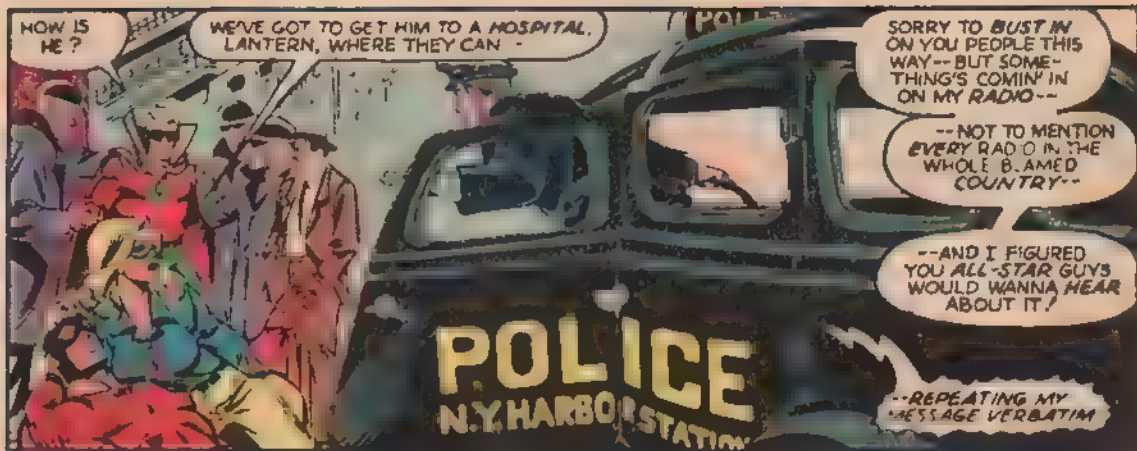
FIGURED I MIGHT AS WELL LET THE HUDSON RIVER DO PART OF MY JOB FOR ME.

NOW HE'S RAISING IT AGAIN-- AND THE FIRES OUT!



NOW NAVY CREWS CAN GET TO WORK REPAIRING THE DAMAGE...

WHILE I CHECK IN ON BELLE AND JOHNNY QUICK.



HOW IS HE?

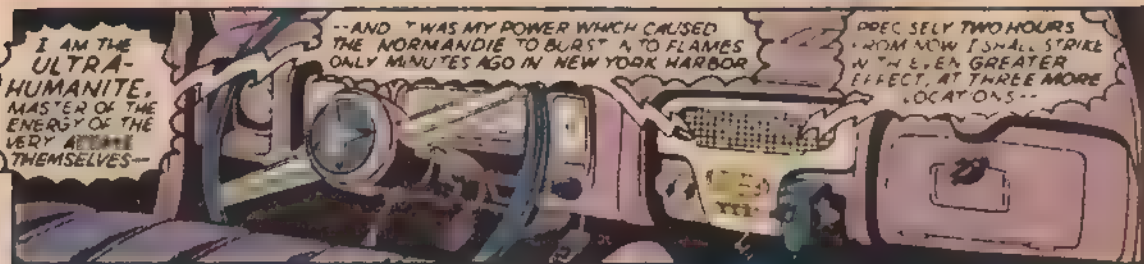
WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL, LANTERN, WHERE THEY CAN --

SORRY TO BUST IN ON YOU PEOPLE THIS WAY-- BUT SOMETHING'S COMIN' IN ON MY RADIO--

--NOT TO MENTION EVERY RADIO IN THE WHOLE B.L.A.M.E.D. COUNTRY--

--AND I FIGURED YOU ALL-STAR GUYS WOULD WANNA HEAR ABOUT IT?

--REPEATING MY MESSAGE VERBATIM



I AM THE ULTRA-HUMANITE, MASTER OF THE VERY ATOMS THEMSELVES--

--AND 'T WAS MY POWER WHICH CAUSED THE NORMANDIE TO BURST A TO FLAMES ONLY MINUTES AGO IN NEW YORK HARBOR

PRECISELY TWO HOURS FROM NOW I SHALL STRIKE WITH EVEN GREATER EFFECT, AT THREE MORE LOCATIONS--

--UNLESS MY DEMAND FOR 100 MILLION DOLLARS IS MET--

--A PALTRY SUM, IN EXCHANGE FOR THE ENTIRE AMERICAN WAR EFFORT!

HE'S DONE IT! HE'S HARNESSSED ALL THE POWER HE NEEDS!

NOT IF THE ALL-STAR SQUADRON HAS ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT--



--AND I'M BETTING WE JUST MIGHT!

COME ON!

BUT-- WHAT ABOUT JOHNNY?



BELLE I SUSPECT YOU CARE A LOT MORE ABOUT THAT HOT TEMPERED NEWSREEL JOCKEY THAN YOU LET ON

NEVER MIND THAT LET'S JUST GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL!

NOT MORE THAN A FEW SECONDS OUT OF OUR WAY.



THEN WE'LL SEE IF ANYBODY OUT AT THE PERISPHERE FEELS LIKE SAVING THE WAR EFFORT.

1ST SUPERMAN AND THE OTHERS-- NOW JOHNNY

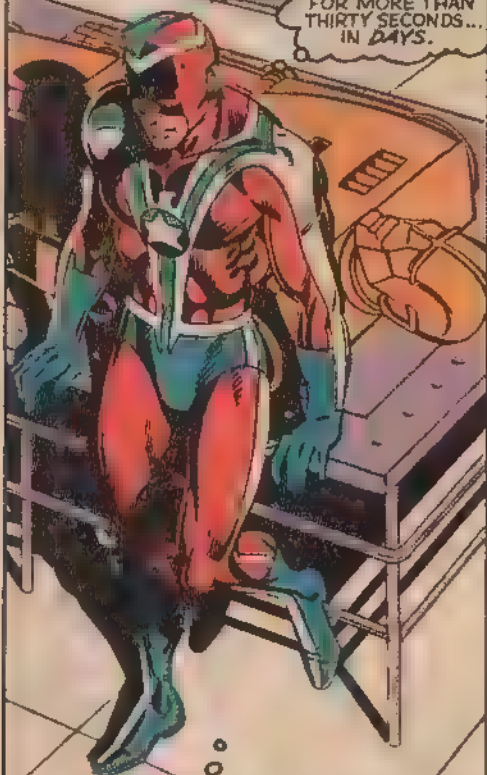
AND IF WE FALL-- IF ULTRA CRIPPLES THE NATION'S DEFENSES, WHAT STANDS BETWEEN AN EMBATTLED AMERICA AND THE AXIS HORDES?

HUMPHREY BOGART WILL SPEAK THE LINE, IN A MOVIE CALLED "CASABLANCA," LATER THIS YEAR.

"I'M NO GOOD AT BEING NOBLE, BUT IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TO SEE THAT THE PROBLEMS OF THREE LITTLE PEOPLE DON'T AMOUNT TO A HILL O' BEANS IN THIS CRAZY WORLD."

PERHAPS SO. BUT HUMAN EMOTIONS DO NOT GO INTO COLD STORAGE IN WARTIME... NOT EVEN FOR A BEING WHO IS PART MAN, PART METAL:

FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN ALONE FOR MORE THAN THIRTY SECONDS... IN DAYS.



MAYBE I'VE BEEN LUCKY, AT THAT... 'CAUSE THE MINUTE GREEN LANTERN AND THE REST WHIZZED OFF, THE MEMORIES STARTED CROWDING ME AGAIN.

EVERY ONE OF THEM HAS ANOTHER LIFE HE CAN STEP INTO... AS CASUALLY AS PUTTING ON A COMFORTABLE PAIR OF SHOES.

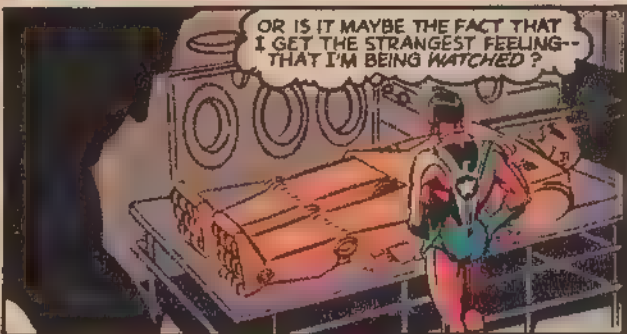
THEM, YEAH... BUT NOT ME.

I WONDER-- IS IT JUST BEING LEFT ALONE TO FIX UP THIS ROBOT THAT'S SET ME OFF--

--OR DOES IT REMIND ME OF HOW WE COULDN'T GET ROBOTMAN AND THE OTHERS OUT OF ULTRA'S CLUTCHES?



OR IS IT MAYBE THE FACT THAT I GET THE STRANGEST FEELING-- THAT I'M BEING WATCHED?



NOT LIKELY, I GUESS. MAYBE I CAN'T SEE INTO ALL THE SHADOWS HERE IN THE PERISPHERE, BUT--

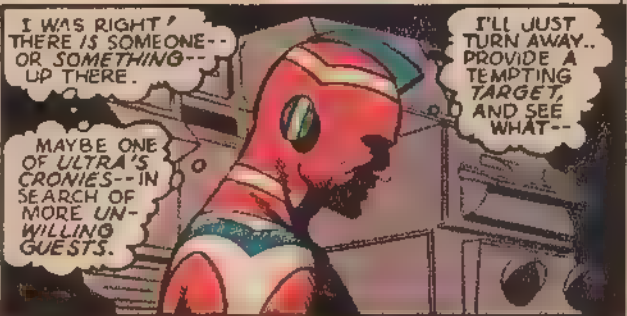
HOLD IT! THAT SOUND-- THE SLIGHTEST SCRAPING--



I WAS RIGHT! THERE IS SOMEONE-- OR SOMETHING-- UP THERE.

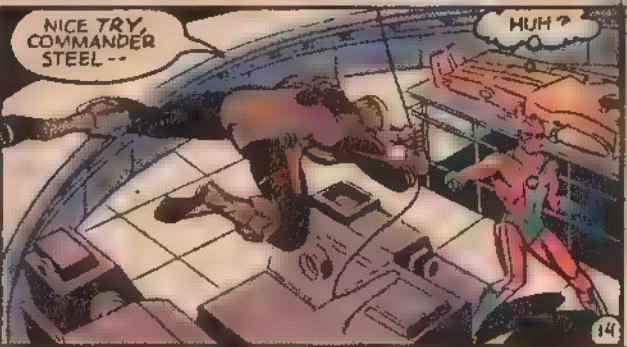
I'LL JUST TURN AWAY.. PROVIDE A TEMPTING TARGET, AND SEE WHAT--

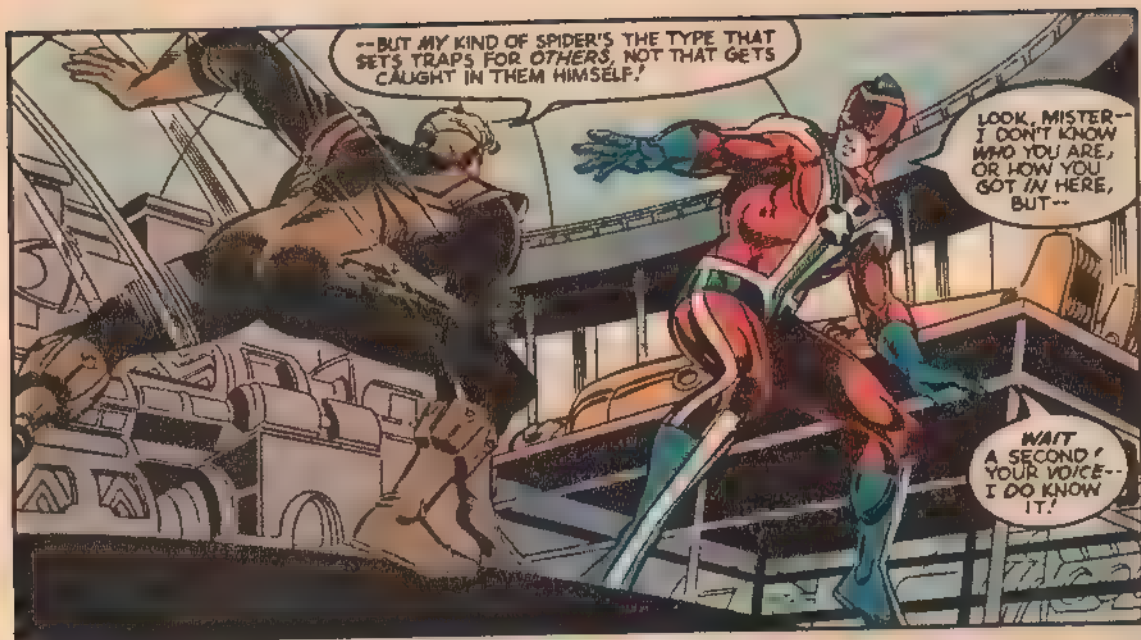
MAYBE ONE OF ULTRA'S CROWIES-- IN SEARCH OF MORE UNWILLING GUESTS.



NICE TRY, COMMANDER STEEL--

MUH?

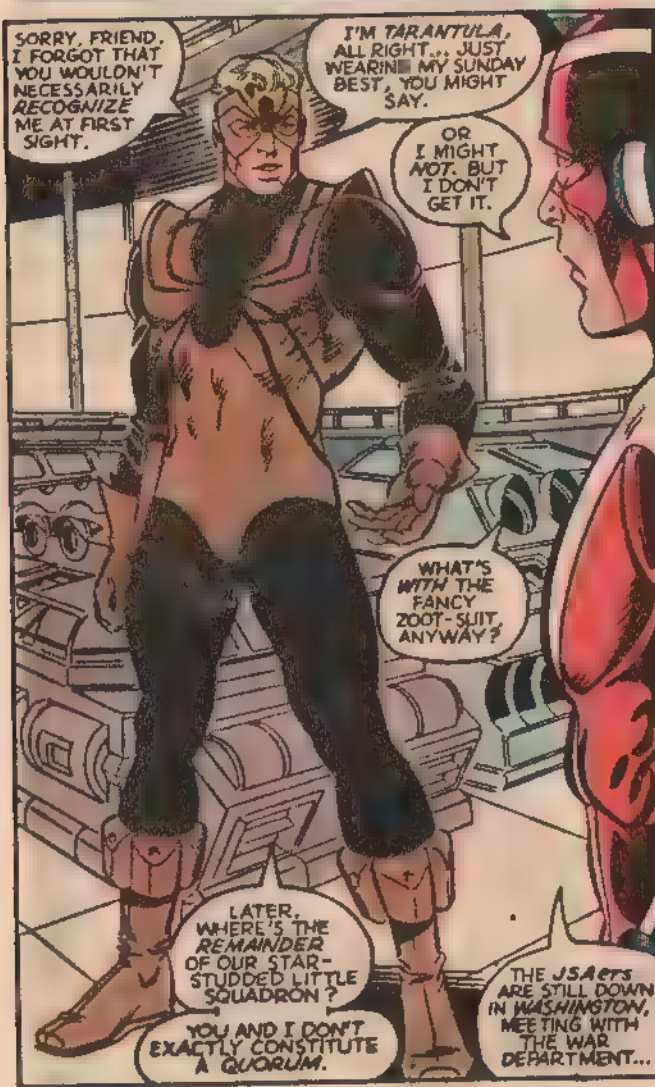




--BUT MY KIND OF SPIDER'S THE TYPE THAT SETS TRAPS FOR OTHERS, NOT THAT GETS CAUGHT IN THEM HIMSELF!

LOOK, MISTER-- I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, OR HOW YOU GOT IN HERE, BUT--

WAIT A SECOND! YOUR VOICE-- I DO KNOW IT!



SORRY, FRIEND. I FORGOT THAT YOU WOULDN'T NECESSARILY RECOGNIZE ME AT FIRST SIGHT.

I'M TARANTULA, ALL RIGHT... JUST WEARING MY SUNDAY BEST, YOU MIGHT SAY.

OR I MIGHT NOT. BUT I DON'T GET IT.

WHAT'S WITH THE FANCY ZOOT-SUIT ANYWAY?

LATER, WHERE'S THE REMAINDER OF OUR STAR-STUDDED LITTLE SQUADRON?

YOU AND I DON'T EXACTLY CONSTITUTE A QUORUM.

THE JSAERS ARE STILL DOWN IN WASHINGTON, MEETING WITH THE WAR DEPARTMENT...



SUPERMAN, ROBOTMAN, AND FIREBRAND ARE HOSTAGES TO A SUPER-SCIENCE CREEP WHO CALLS HIMSELF--OR HERSELF--THE ULTRA-HUMANITE...

BOY! I CAN'T LEAVE YOU GUYS ALONE FOR A MINUTE, CAN I?

...AND BELLE, THE LANTERN, AND JOHNNY QUICK ARE OUT TRYING TO SCRAPE UP A LEAD ON ULTRA'S HIDDEN HEADQUARTERS.

SO WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

ONE YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TROUBLE BELIEVING, HANK.

FACT IS, I'M NOT 100% CERTAIN I CREDIT IT MYSELF!

DROP THE "HANK" STUFF, OR AY? HANK HEYWOOD'S DEAD, THERE'S JUST COMMANDER STEEL NOW.

JUST SAY YOUR PIECE, AND I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHETHER I BELIEVE IT OR NOT.

WHAT'S EATING YOU SINCE I LEFT HERE THIS MORNING? WONDER?

NEVER MIND. WHAT MATTERS NOW, WITH ALL DUE MODESTY IS WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME SINCE THEN...

YOU SEE, AFTER MY LITTLE VERBAL SET-TO WITH JOHNNY QUICK, I DECIDED I NEEDED SOME AIR.

SHOULDN'T HAVE LET QUICK GET UNDER MY SKIN THAT WAY

HE'S AN ALL-RIGHT GUY - JUST A BIT THIN-SKINNED, AND OVERLY JEALOUS OF LIBERTY BELLE

WONDER JUST WHAT THE SCORE IS BETWEEN THOSE TWO, ANYWAY.

PART II

in "MIND OVER MYSTERY-MAN!"

ISSUE #22-R04

NOT THAT I'D DREAM OF HORNING IN ON ANOTHER GUY'S BUDDING ROMANCE

AND THEN AGAIN--

LOOK! IT'S THE SANDMAN!

THEN WHERE'S HIS GASMASK?

THE STORY OF MY LIFE--EVEN THOUGH I WAS THE ONE WHO WORE THIS COCKAMAMIE COSTUME FIRST

OH WELL, I GUESS THAT ASPECT OF THINGS WILL SORT ITSELF OUT.

RIGHT NOW, MY MAIN CONCERN'S GETTING TO MY APARTMENT WITHOUT HALF THE PEOPLE IN MANHATTAN FIGURING OUT I'M REALLY JONATHAN LAW, MYSTERY-NOVEL WRITER..

AND THE OTHER HALF ASKING ME WHERE MY L.I.D PARTNER SANDY IS.



UH-OH! SOUNDS LIKE I'VE GOT COMPANY- AND I'M NOT EVEN HOME!

LOOK LADY- HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU - I DEMAND TO SEE JONATHAN LAW, A.K.A TARANTULA!

HUH??



ANOTHER MASKED MAN IN AN ACROBAT'S OUTFIT? MUST BE A TREND

WELL?

NEIN! I KEEP TELLING YOU - I AM ONLY OLGA, MR. LAW'S HOUSE-KEEPER!

BUT-- HOW DOES HE KNOW ABOUT ME??

YOU MUST HAVE DER WRONG JONATHAN LAW.



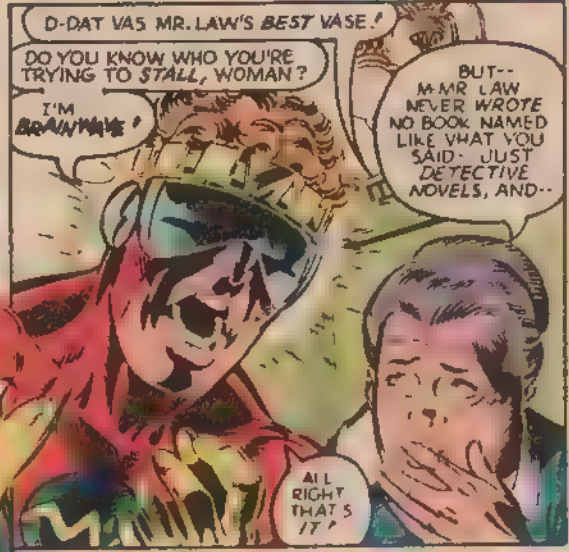
I KNOW OF ANOTHER ONE! HE LIVES JUST DOWN DER - OHHH

I WANT THE JONATHAN LAW WHO WROTE "ALTERED EGOS THE STAR-SPANGLED SUPER-HEROES OF WORLD WAR TWO"...

LAP!

-AND I MEAN TO FIND HIM IF I HAVE TO BRNG TH'S WHOLE BUILDING DOWN AROUND YOUR EARS!

THERE? DOES THIS BRAIN-BLAST LOOK LIKE I'M KIDDING?



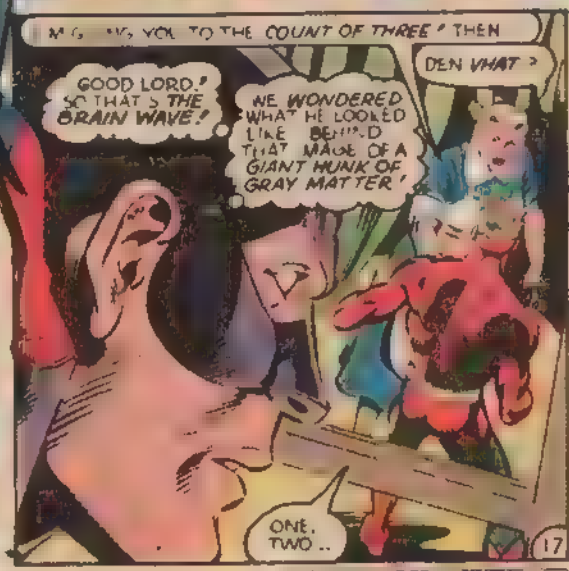
D-DAT VAS MR. LAW'S BEST VASE!

DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE TRYING TO STALL, WOMAN?

I'M BRAINWAVE!

BUT-- M-MR LAW NEVER WROTE NO BOOK NAMED LIKE VBAT YOU SAID- JUST DETECTIVE NOVELS, AND--

ALL RIGHT THAT'S IT?



OK, OK, YOU TO THE COUNT OF THREE? THEN

GOOD LORD! SO THAT'S THE BRAIN WAVE!

WE WONDERED WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE BEHIND THAT MUCK OF A GIANT HUNK OF GRAY MATTER!

DEN VBAT?

ONE, TWO...

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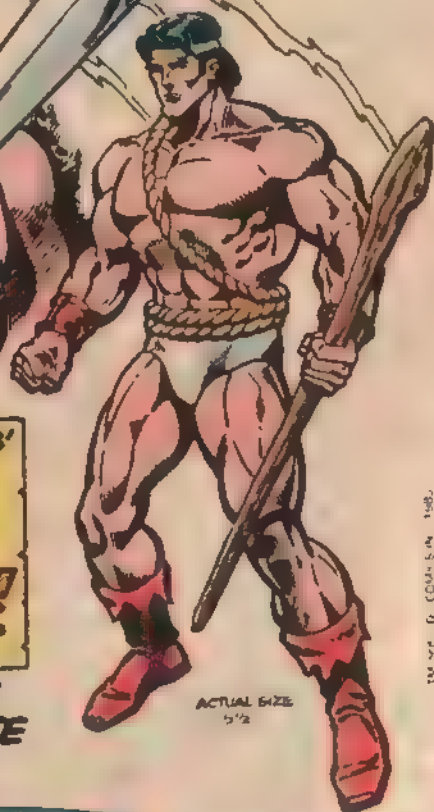
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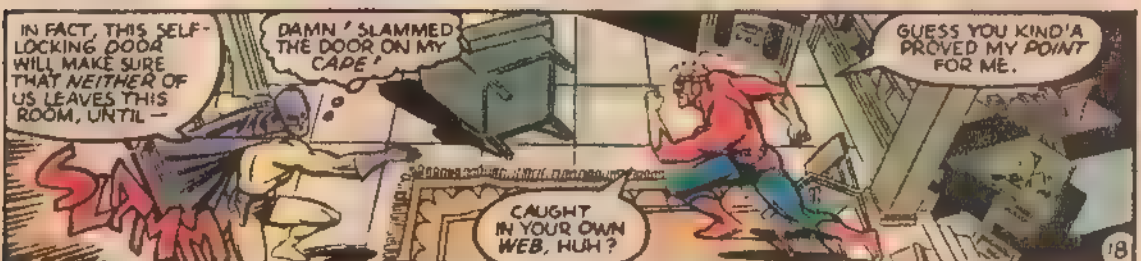
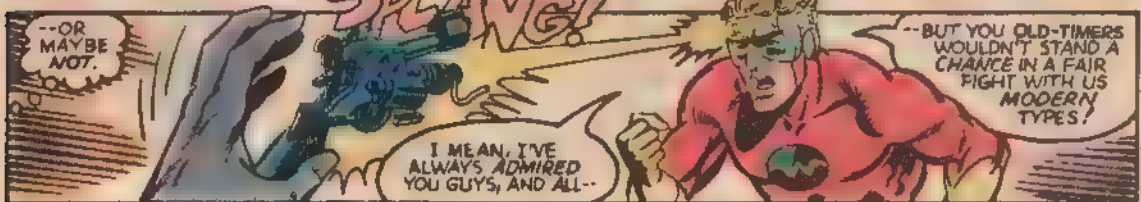
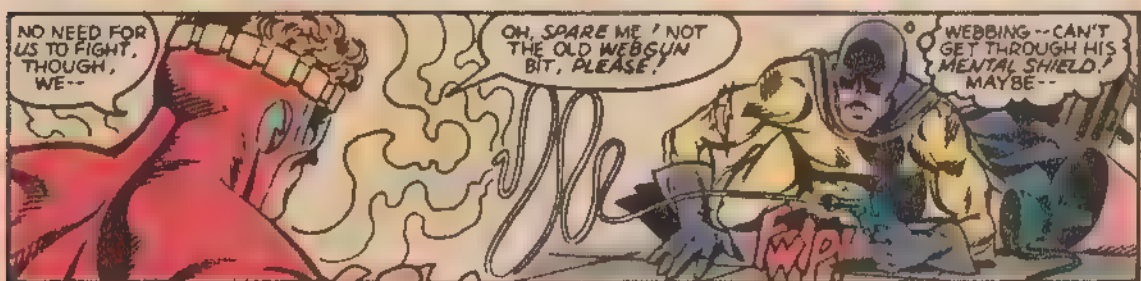
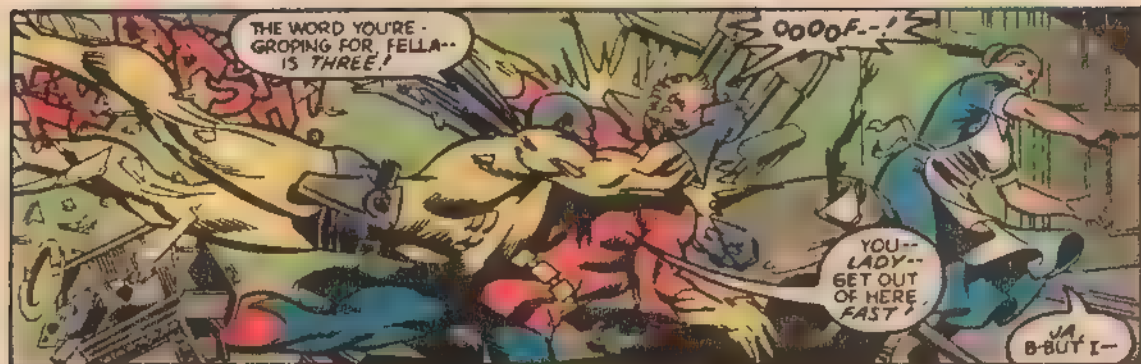
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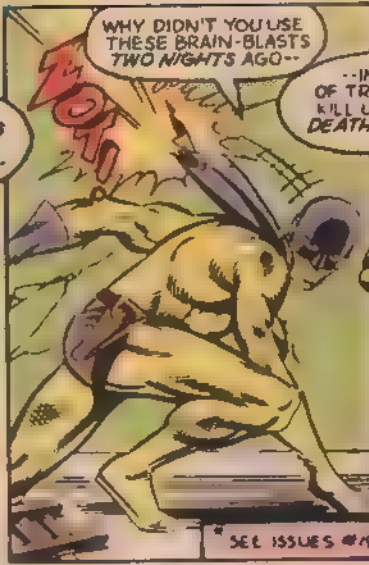
HERCULES





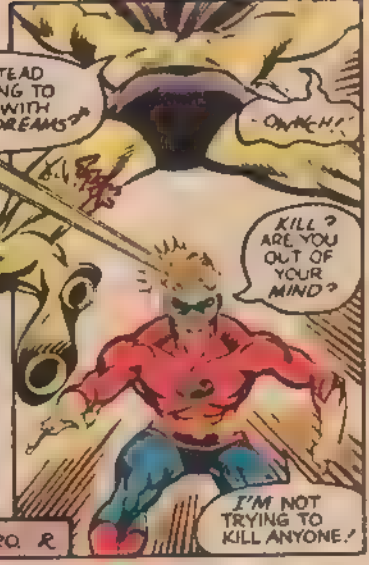
YOU
THINK SO,
DO YOU?

JUST TELL
ME ONE THING
BEFORE FIST
MEETS CHIN--



WHY DIDN'T YOU USE
THESE BRAIN-BLASTS
TWO NIGHTS AGO--

--INSTEAD
OF TRYING TO
KILL US WITH
DEATH-DREAMS?

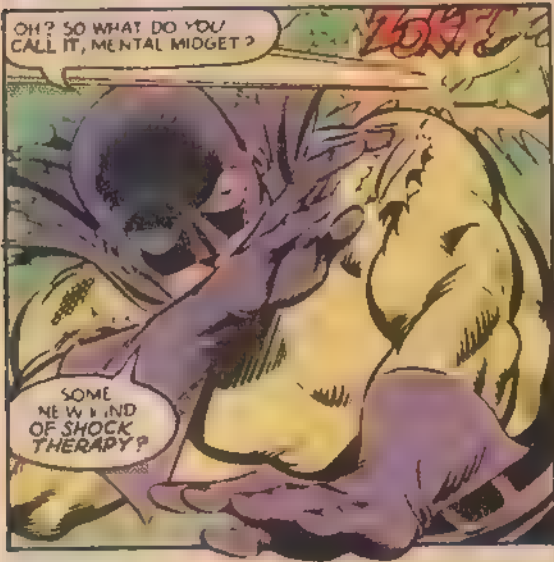


OWEN!

KILL?
ARE YOU
OUT OF
YOUR
MIND?

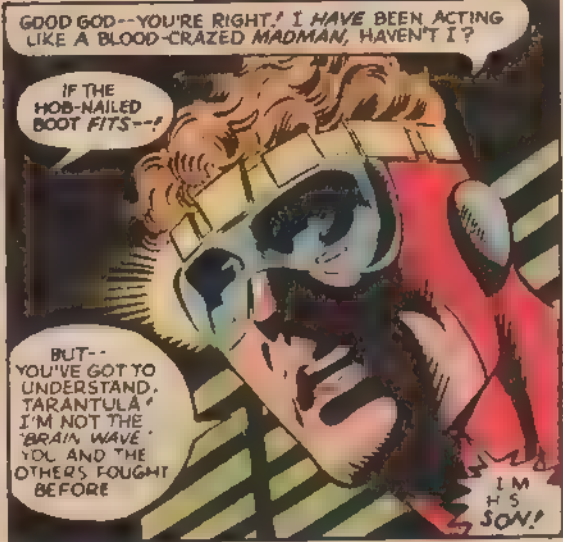
I'M NOT
TRYING TO
KILL ANYONE!

* SEE ISSUES #19-20. R



OH? SO WHAT DO YOU
CALL IT, MENTAL MIDGET?

SOME
NEW KIND
OF SHOCK
THERAPY?



GOOD GOD--YOU'RE RIGHT! I HAVE BEEN ACTING
LIKE A BLOOD-CRAZED MADMAN, HAVEN'T I?

IF THE
HOB-NAILED
BOOT FITS--!

BUT--
YOU'VE GOT TO
UNDERSTAND,
TARANTULA,
I'M NOT THE
'BRAIN WAVE'
YOU AND THE
OTHERS FOUGHT
BEFORE

I'M
HIS
SON!

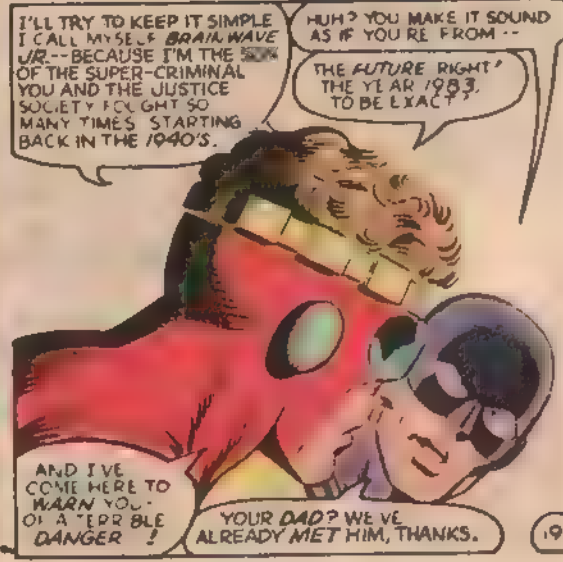


RUN THAT
BY ME
AGAIN?

IT'S TRUE--
I SWEAR IT!

GUESS THE ONLY
THING I CAN DO--
AFTER BOTCHING
IT LIKE THIS-- IS
LEVEL WITH YOU!

THAT'D
BE
NICE



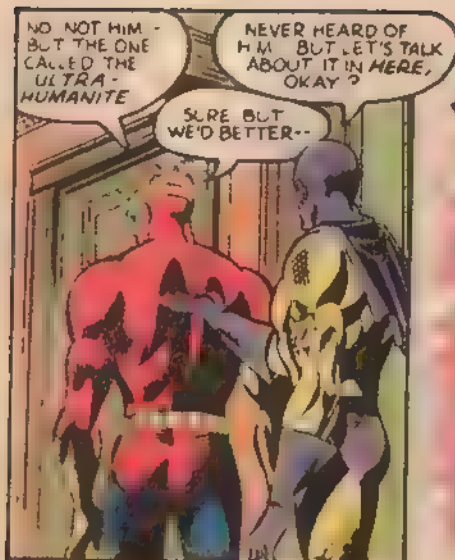
I'LL TRY TO KEEP IT SIMPLE
I CALL MYSELF 'BRAIN WAVE'
JR.--BECAUSE I'M THE SON
OF THE SUPER-CRIMINAL
YOU AND THE JUSTICE
SOCIETY FOUGHT SO
MANY TIMES STARTING
BACK IN THE 1940'S.

HUH? YOU MAKE IT SOUND
AS IF YOU'RE FROM--

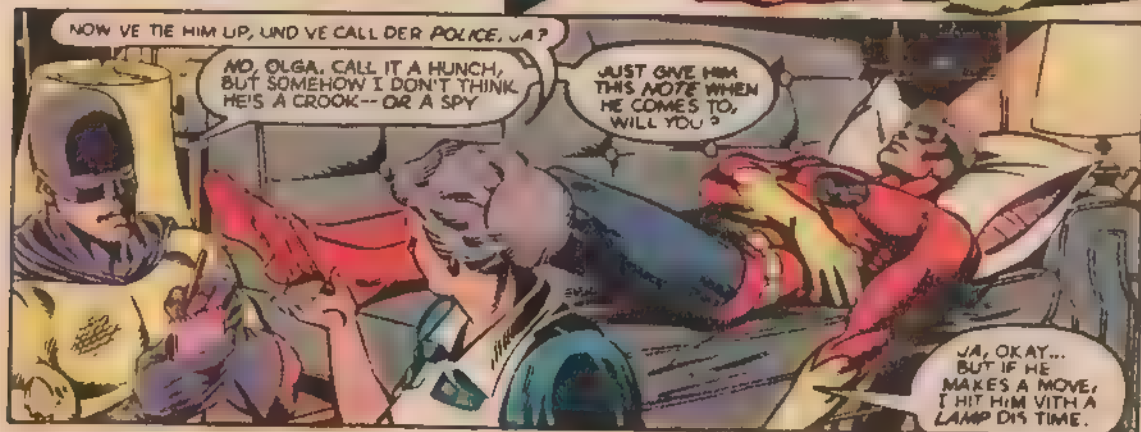
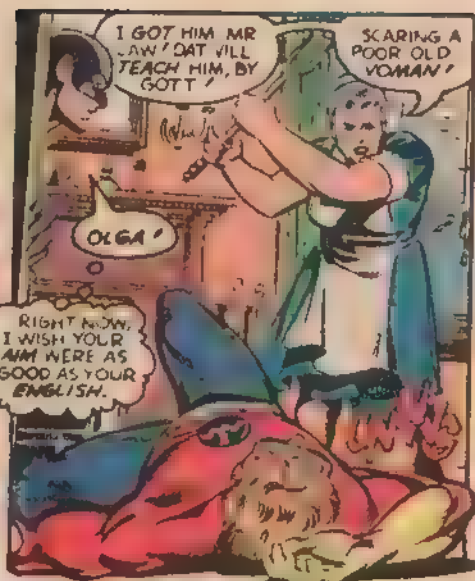
THE FUTURE RIGHT?
THE YEAR 1983,
TO BE EXACT?

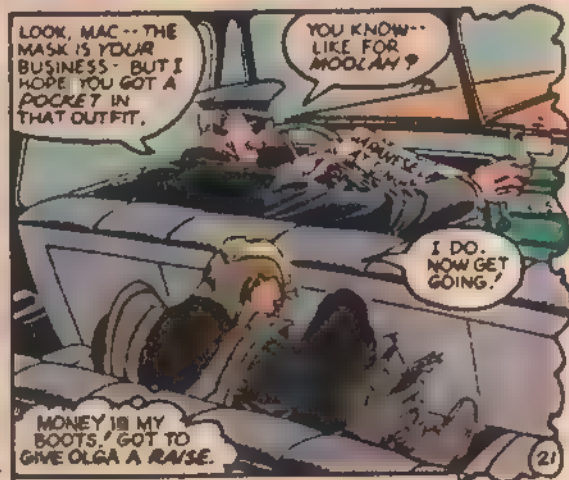
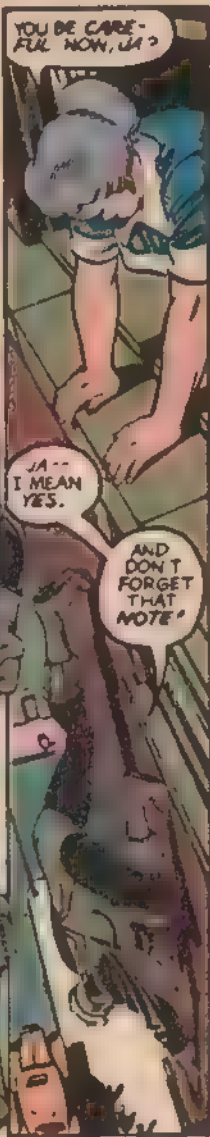
AND I'VE
COME HERE TO
WARN YOU--
OF A TERRIBLE
DANGER!

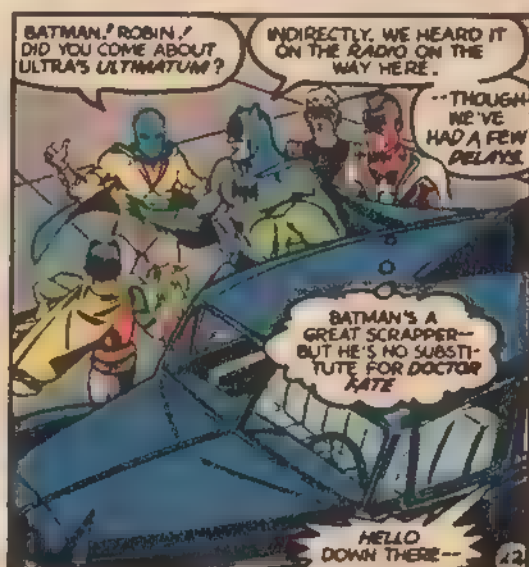
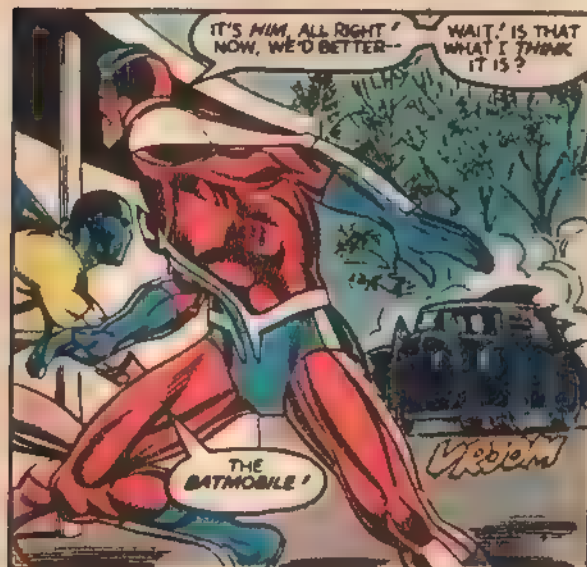
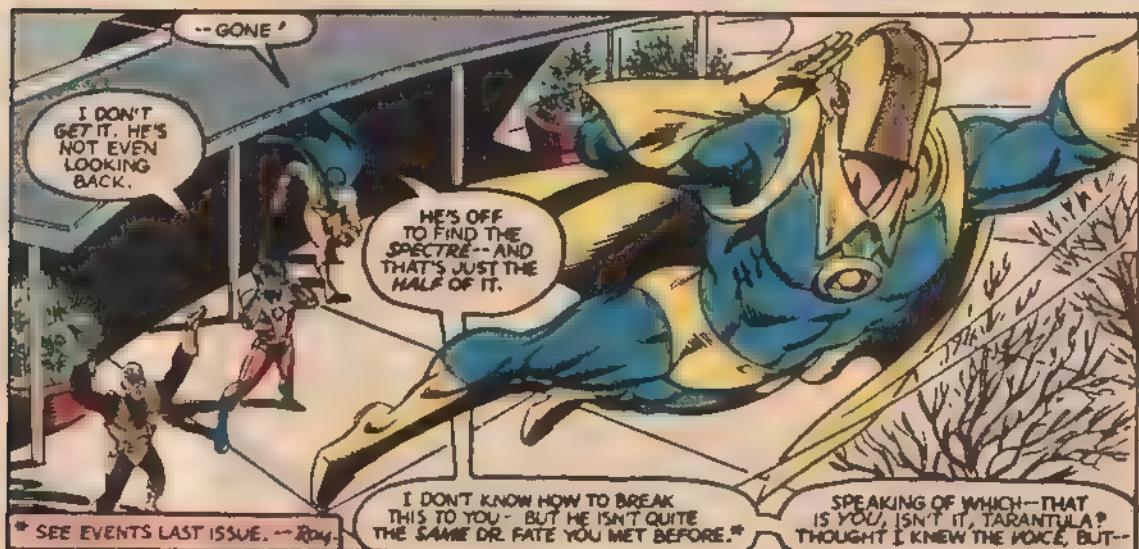
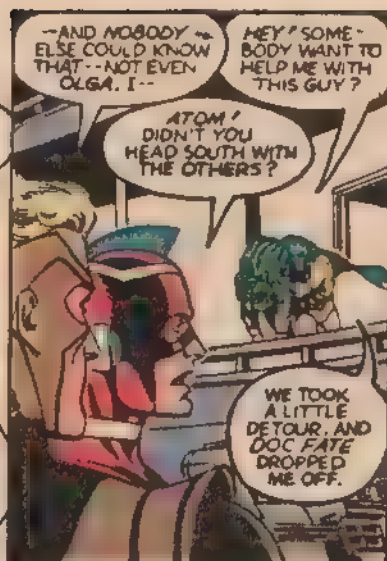
YOUR DAD? WE'VE
ALREADY MET HIM, THANKS.



WHOMP







MEANWHILE

I gotta tell you something... I'm havin' fun! Really! I mean how many grown-ups get to live out their childhood fantasies—and get paid for it? Not to mention, how many people can honestly claim to be having fun after working at the same job for thirty years? Only weirdos. So I'm a weirdo. But if you think I'm weird, you should see Marv Wolfman jumpin' up 'n' down like some kinda nut! "Hey Marv, what's happening? How come you jumpin' up 'n' down like some kinda nut?" "I'm happy is all!" Paul (Levitz) just told me DC just signed the contracts that give us the comic book rights to *Star Trek*. "Yeah, so...?" "So we're gonna do a monthly comic and a special comic adaptation of *Star Trek III*!" And best of all I'm the Editor and Marty (Pasko) and Mike (Barr) are going to write the scripts for me. "Big deal. Another 'Trekkie' gone sonkers."

On the other hand, I'm weird for *Star Trek* myself, can't wait for the first issue. Wonder who's going to draw it? I'll ask Marv. "Hey, Marv! Marv!..." Too late. He beamed himself home.

Talking of contracts, we just completed negotiations with Charlton Comics which gives us the rights to most of their "Action Heroes"! At least that's what I called them when I created the line during my stint as Charlton's Executive Editor back in the sixties. I don't know how many you go back that far but I was there when each of these characters was created. Heck, I was part of the creative process. I remember the energy and the fun of working with so many talented people to produce the likes of, Captain Atom, Blue Beetle, Judomaster, The Question, Sarge Steel, Peacemaker, Son of Vulcan.

Anyway, these characters were the foundation of a very exciting, creative and formative time in my professional life and it's a big kick to have them back. Whatever we decide to do with these titles (our plans are tentative at this writing), I'm sure you'll enjoy them as much as I have.

Incidentally, if you have any ideas about DC's future use of these titles, I'm willing to listen. My only thought at this time is to use the original creative teams wherever possible. Nostalgia? Maybe. But Steve Ditko drawing Blue Beetle could be just as exciting as it was once upon a time. Boy, that's a lot to look forward to.

Onward...

Did you know that, 1. I goofed in last month's column. I watch "Nightwatch" in the early morning hours, not "Nightline". No such animal. You may not care but I suppose CBS does. 2. I goofed several columns ago in announcing the Maggin/Toth/Austin Superman-Batman Team-up would appear in the DC Comics Presents Annual. It's in the *Superman Annual*. 3. Weirdos tend to goof a lot. 4. We're planning a reprint line that I'm excited about! Generally, I think of reprints as being in a class with kissing your sister, something that one does out of obligation. Not these reprints! More on them in a future column. The business-types around here get nervous when I start gushing prematurely about pet projects. Noteworthy.

We've just changed the format of the "Superman" Sunday page. Distributed by The Tribune

Company Syndicate, Inc., the new Superman Sunday is designed to expand readership beyond the traditional adventure fans to include the general Sunday-Funnies audience. Parents, as well as boys and girls, are invited to participate in an exciting series of puzzles and mazes; Superman Trivia; a reader write-in "Ask Superman" column and even nostalgia, via a feature that looks at Superman art of the past.

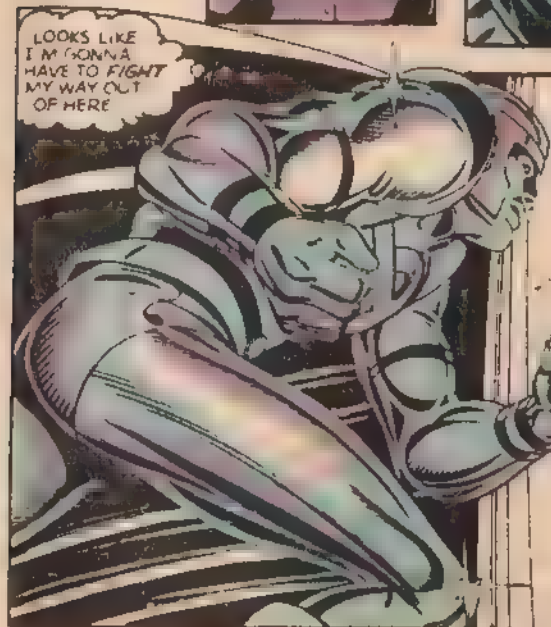
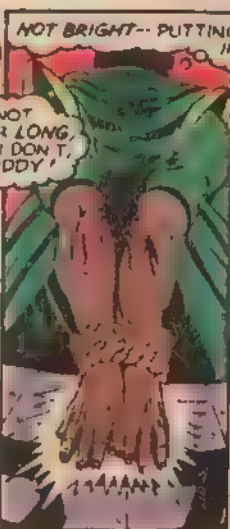
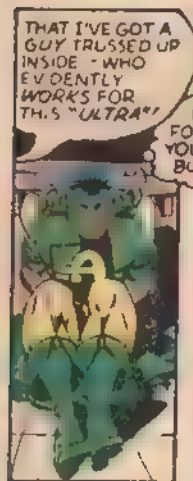
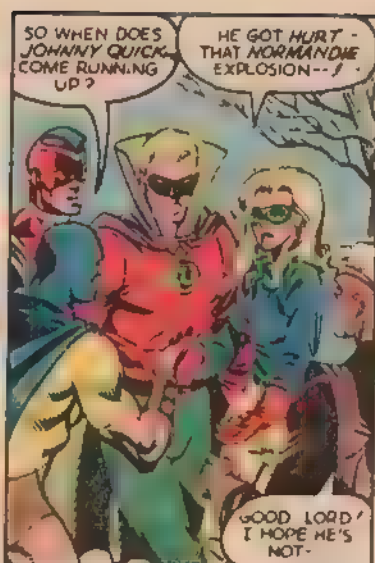
The Sunday 'Super' Special is written by DC staffer Bob Rozakis and beautifully drawn by Jose Delbo and Sal Trapani (who also do a smashing job on the six-day week dailies which are written by Paul Kupperberg). The new Sunday page has picked up many new papers, including the *New York Sunday News*. Dailies and the Sunday don't necessarily appear in the same papers and if one or both doesn't appear in your local paper, it may be because you haven't bounded the paper's Editor. While you think of it, why don't you drop him a note and "ask for it by name"?

"Thriller" is coming! First real outing for relative newcomer Robert Loren Fleming and obviously a labor of love for artist Trevor Von Eeden. If you want an exciting change of pace in comic reading, this is the one to try in '83! Non-returnable outlets only, we'll be on sale with "Thriller" late in the year. Look for it.

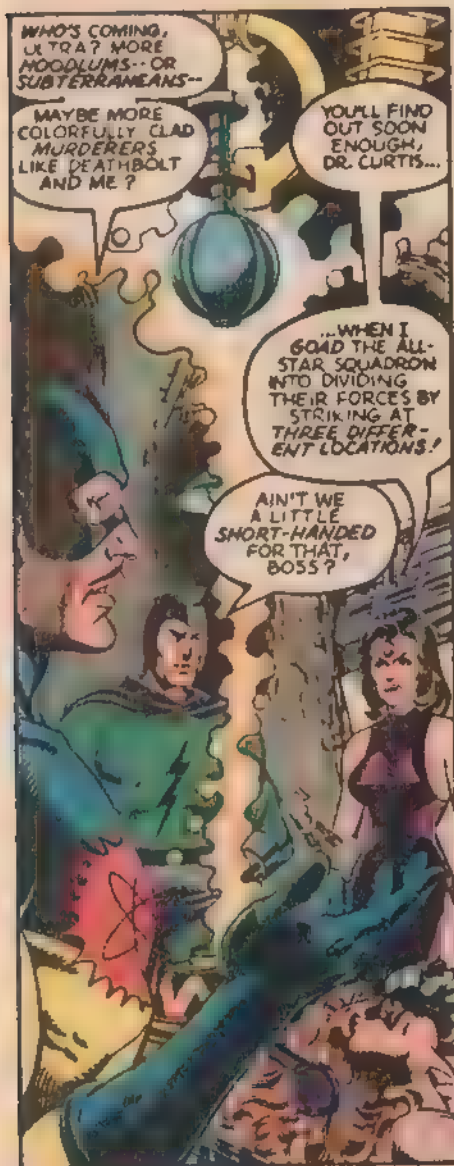
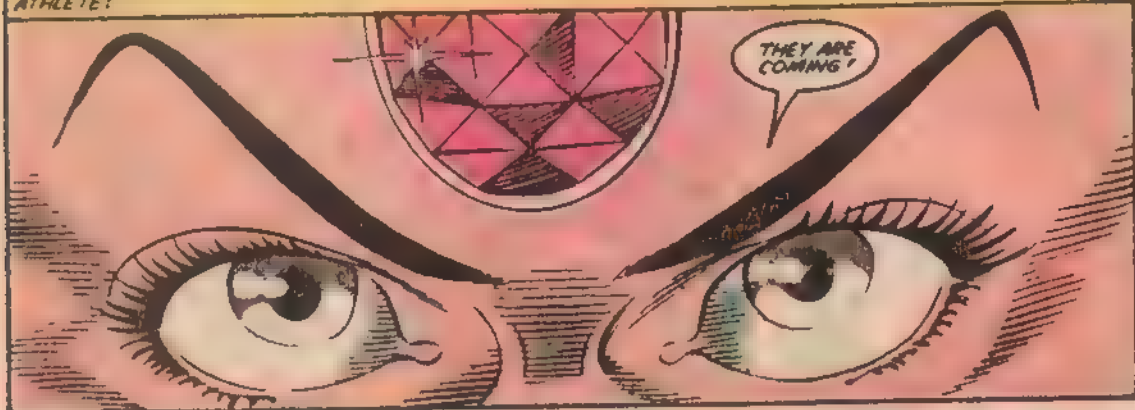
Thank you and Good afternoon

DC staffers and free-lancers alike were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of Frank Charamonte on January 28th. He died of cancer at age 40. DC and Marvel fans knew Frank best for his work as an inker, notably on Curt Swan's *Superman* pencils and Mike Ploog's *Werewolf By Night*. Most fans were less aware of his work on *P.S.* magazine, an illustrated monthly maintenance manual for the army which he did regularly since coming to this country from Cuba in 1967.

Frank brought a high level of professionalism, skill and dedication to his work and he was a quiet, yet personable, gentle man. He will be missed by those who knew and worked with him.



THE MULTI-BEING CALLED ULTRA HAS OTHER THINGS ON HER MIND JUST NOW THAN A COSTUMED EX-OLYMPIC ATHLETE:



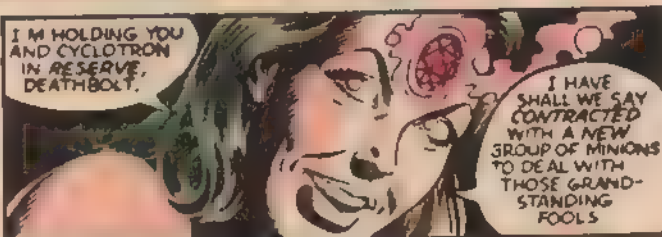
WHO'S COMING, ULTRA? MORE HOODLUMS--OR SUBTERRANEANS--

MAYBE MORE COLORFULLY CLAD MURDERERS LIKE DEATHBOLT AND ME?

YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH, DR. CURTIS...

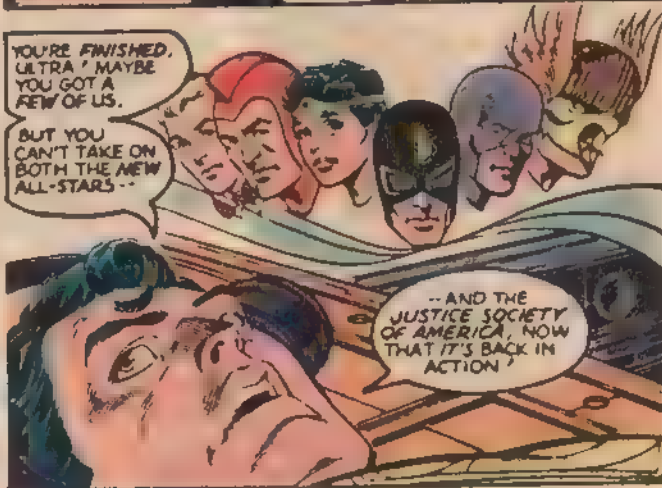
...WHEN I GOAD THE ALL-STAR SQUADRON INTO DIVIDING THEIR FORCES BY STRIKING AT THREE DIFFERENT LOCATIONS!

AIN'T WE A LITTLE SHORT-HANDED FOR THAT, BOSS?



I'M HOLDING YOU AND CYCLOTRON IN RESERVE, DEATHBOLT.

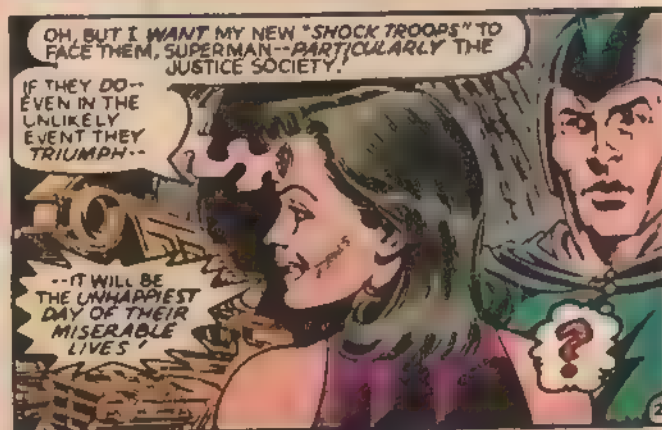
I HAVE SHALL WE SAY CONTRACTED WITH A NEW GROUP OF MINIONS TO DEAL WITH THOSE GRAND-STANDING FOOLS



YOU'RE FINISHED, ULTRA! MAYBE YOU GOT A FEW OF US.

BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE ON BOTH THE NEW ALL-STARS--

--AND THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA, NOW THAT IT'S BACK IN ACTION!



OH, BUT I WANT MY NEW "SHOCK TROOPS" TO FACE THEM, SUPERMAN--PARTICULARLY THE JUSTICE SOCIETY!

IF THEY DO--EVEN IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THEY TRIUMPH--

--IT WILL BE THE UNHAPPYEST DAY OF THEIR MISERABLE LIVES!

NEXT ISSUE: **THE INFINITY SYNDROME!** INTRODUCING INFINITY, INC.!... YOU'LL NEVER FORGET 'EM!

ALL-STAR SQUADRON

DC COMICS, INC., 666 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10103

We had such an outpouring of letters on ALL-STAR SQUADRON #19-20, for a variety of reasons, that we decided to turn this letters page (on #20) over to your comments, reserving our own for the end....

Dear All-Stars:

I knew you were going to have Green Lantern come to the rescue of the JSA/All-Star Squadron, but I had no idea you would bring him on like Gangbusters, because that's exactly what Roy and Jerry did! Also, I loved the way Jerry made the Brain Wave so menacing and malevolent by the opaque glasses—brilliant! Roy, you've done it again, but why did the Japanese rather than the Nazis taste the sting of Green Lantern's "righteous wrath"?

"Professor Azimuth"
180 Vermont Av.
Newark, NJ 07106

Dear Roy:

Finally! The real honest-to-goodness JUSTICE SOCIETY is back to these pages. And not only was Green Lantern brought back, but he was actually *used* for something other than a doorstep. Used? No, he *shines*! Now if you'd just pay a little of that kind of attention to the Flash! Long live the Justice Society!

William Decker
114 Water
Eaton Rapids, Mich. 48827

Dear Len, Roy, and Jerry,

I knew just by looking at the first page of #20 that this was going to be one hell of an issue. Actually, Jerry Ordway's art makes you want to forget about Roy Thomas' script...well, almost. By the way, speaking of GL, where did "I am become Death, the Shatterer of Worlds" come from?

Kevin T. Brown
4876F W. Lawrence Av.
Norridge, IL 60656

Dear Roy and Jerry,

I was very disappointed by ALL-STAR SQUADRON #20. Considering this is my favorite mag and my expectations are high, this may not be so much your fault, but still, when the best part of a tale is the flashback to earlier stories, something is wrong. The All-Stars weren't around long enough for me to enjoy them, and Green Lantern came in for some useless devastation in the last five pages.

Dustin Laary
117 Emeline Place
Morehead City, NC 28557

Dear Editor,

The cover of issue #20 (by Jerry Ordway) was absolutely fetching. Jerry is one of the very classiest artists in the DC Universe (actually in any universe as far as that goes). His

interior art was also marvelous. Roy Thomas scripted an intriguing and dramatic story of psychological and emotional danger, which I found very exciting. The threat was different, as was the conclusion. I was glad to get a look at Tarantula in these recent issues, but he is not one of the oldtimers I'd like to see hang around.

Wallace Lee Hopkins
Box 425
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Dear Editor,

That Thomas fellow has added all the little touches which make ALL-STAR SQUADRON outstanding. But the real reason to write is to say "welcome back" to Jerry Ordway. He was missed when he wasn't on these pages, although Rick Hoberg did an admirable job.

Jeff Peckham
503 Mariett Hall
Kansas State U.
Manhattan, Kansas 66506

Dear Editor:

The JSA is back! Although the realization that the legendary heroes of the Golden Age will once more be appearing regularly fills me with excitement, I can't help but marvel at how I've come to enjoy reading about the non-JSA members in recent issues. Jerry Ordway's covers (esp. for #19) have been reminiscent of the old ALL-STAR COMICS covers of the 1940's, but I feel Ordway's work is far more refined and dramatic than those from the dawn of comics history. The Justice Society's presence can only enhance an already excellent publication.

David Mercury
Toledo, Ohio

Dear All-Stars,

From the powerful front cover to the story's final, terrible climax, "For the Dark Things Cannot Stand the Light" made for one heck of a twentieth issue. The Justice Society fought some pretty unique foes during the Golden Age, and the Brain Wave is one of the best. So, the "Continuity Kid" is up to his old tricks, eh? Wonderfull I really enjoyed those simultaneous episodes featuring Superman, Batman and Robin, the Spectre (was this from an issue of MORE FUN COMICS?), and the Flash. Pretty tricky of you to remember to give Luthor his mop of red hair, even though by 1942 he was represented in the comics as hairless as the proverbial cueball. And speaking of continuity and redhead bad-guys, was Degaton ever drafted, or did he get out on a section eight?

Will Day
Bangor, Maine

Dear Roy, Jerry, and Len,

The second part of the Brain Wave story was the best issue of the series to date. It had everything: anger, fear, sorrow,

ply, hate, but best of all—it had the Justice Society of America! Thank you for ALL-STAR SQUADRON #20.

Kevin Deters
7000 State St.
Quincy, IL 62301

Dear Roy and Len et al.

Issue #20 saved me \$2,640. Roy and Jerry were kind enough to give us readers capsule summaries of ALL-STAR COMICS #2, 8, and 15 as well as SUPERMAN #17, BATMAN #11, ALL-FLASH #4, and GREEN LANTERN (first series) #4. Now I don't have to go out and buy those issues. Of course, I hadn't planned on buying those particular issues, but it still makes me feel good to imagine I saved that much money.

"T.M. Maple"
Toronto, Ont., Canada

Dear Roy (and especially Jerry).

I'm not going to beat around the bush and heap all kinds of pseudo-intellectual praise on you regarding issues #19-20. While I enjoyed the lead-in in #19, you gentlemen outdid yourselves in #20 with the most exciting story I've read in any comic since THE UNTOLD LEGEND OF THE BATMAN. Jerry, the cover of #20 may be the single most powerfully moving cover I have ever seen. You not only captured Green Lantern's emotional upheaval, but you made me feel his pain, as well. Roy and Jerry, you've got something special here. Thanks for sharing it.

Michael Dunn
458 D, Sunny Acres
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Gentlemen:

There aren't words sufficient to express my genuine gratitude for your magnificent work on ALL-STAR SQUADRON #20. The story/characterizations/artwork took this longtime fan back to the proverbial "Golden Age" when the JSA was the ultimate comic magazine. You've restored the grandeur, Roy, and likely only such a dedicated true-fan as yourself could. From the opening page (a '39 Chevy coupe, my first car!) through the closing, the artwork is nigh flawless, and the script is well-paced.

Ronn Foss
Star Rt. 3
Birch Tree, MO 65438

And it was especially welcome to hear from "longtime fan" Ronn Foss, who was an early contributor and even publisher of ALTER EGO, the early-60's fanzine (published by Dr. Jerry Bailey with a bit of help from Ye Writer/Editor) which helped establish comics fandom. Now for the few answers required to the above all-but-unanimous outpouring of praise for ALL-STAR SQUADRON #20:

(1) The reason it was Japan, not Germany, which felt Green Lantern's anger in #20 is because most Americans, in those post-Pearl Harbor days, felt more animosity toward the Japanese than toward the Nazis. This led to some abuses, as well, which will be dealt with in future issues.

(2) GL's quote at the close of #20 is from the Hindu text, the Bhagavad-Gita, where it is said by the death-deity Shiva. On our earth (and quite possibly on Earth-Two, as well), those words were quoted by J. Robert Oppenheimer, so-called "father of the atomic bomb," upon seeing the first A-blast in the Southwest Desert—but evidently Alan Scott knew them, too. Obviously, we wanted to stress the similarity between Green Lantern's dream-destruction of Japan under the influence of the Brain Wave—and the atomic bomb.

(3) So how does Wallace Lee Hopkins like Tarantula in his new outfit?

(4) More about Dogaton's (and others') draft status later, perhaps.

(5) The only "new" flashback in #20 was the Spectre scene, which was not from an old comic. And if you think that means more of the Spectre in a near-future issue—go to the head of the class!

—Roy Thomas

A NOTE ON OUR QUASI-HISTORY OF WORLD WAR TWO: One of the events in this issue of ALL-STAR SQUADRON, in particular, has its roots in a "real-life" event on Earth-Prime (i.e., our own super-hero-less world), and we thought it deserved more attention than we could have paid it in a footnote within the story itself:

At 3:00 on the afternoon of February 10, 1942, the 65,000-ton French liner *Normandie*, renamed the *Lafayette*, which had been in American hands since the fall of France to the Nazis nearly two years earlier, was being refitted in New York Harbor for eventual conversion into an aircraft carrier. Suddenly, workmen saw smoke billowing up from belowdecks—and within a short time, all workers fled the burning ship, which rolled over and settled heavily into the mud. This was considered a great blow to the U.S.'s attempts to recover from the debacle of Pearl Harbor, and naturally German or Japanese sabotage was suspected.

It soon became apparent that it was, in the words of one author, "a workman's carelessness with the welding torch" which caused the disaster. However, we decided to give the *Normandie* affair a third cast—neither accident nor Axis-inspired—by laying it at the door of Ultra. Quite acceptable, given our fictional frame of reference—and there might be those who would feel that Ultra's generators somehow leaped the gap between Earth-Prime and Earth-Two to cause the fire here, as well—but we'll leave that to others to debate.

We just didn't want anybody to flunk any "ancient history" tests because of us. Fair enough?

—Roy Thomas



ON SALE MAY 28TH

ACTION COMICS #546 Story by Marv Wolfman, art by Gil Kane. The Man of Tomorrow versus the Megabyte Marauder, BRAINIAC!

DETECTIVE COMICS #529 Story by Doug Moench. Pencil's by Gene Colan. Midnight danger with the Darknight Detective, as he meets "The Thief of Night" plus: more action with GREEN ARROW, courtesy of Joey Calabrese, Paris Cullins, & Pablo Marcos.

JONAH HEX #75 Mike Fleisher, story; Dick Ayers, pencils; Tony De Zuriaga, inks. "The Bloody Saga of Railroad Bill, Part 2." Plus: THE NEW EL DIABLO by Cohn and Randall!

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #294 Story by exciting new talent discovery Dave Kellogg, pencils by incredibly talented newcomer Jerome Moore and Klaus Janson. Cover pencilled by Ed Hannigan. Character developments continue for the World's Finest Team and so do the threats, for now begins the menace of TONATIU! With space age technology and Aztec mystery at his command, can even SUPERMAN and THE BATMAN stop him?

ARION, LORD OF ATLANTIS #10 Story by Doug Moench, art and cover by Jan Duursema. Cosmic conjurations with the wizard of fabled Atlantis!



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